



Central Area Committee meeting 14-3-17

Plan No: Planning Ref. No. 4144/16

Location: Proposed renovation of Wolfe Tone Park and Wolfe Tone Street, Dublin 1.

The proposed Part 8 development was put on public display from 18th November 2016 to 9th January 2017. Plans and particulars of the scheme were available for inspection and on display in the Civic Offices, Wood Quay.

The closing date for submissions or observations was Monday 23rd January 2017.

Observations

Forty seven third party observations were received.

Two of these were made by local residents who are in support of the renovation of the park and who urge a meaningful acknowledgement of the rich history of the space.

Five observations were made by local business interests.

- AXA insurance, Carrolls Irish Gifts and the owners of Twilfit House were very supportive of the proposals.
- Jervis Shopping Centre are concerned about a narrowing of the carriageway along Jervis Street. They have a multi-storey carpark entrance opposite the park.

Response: The proposals along this street are being omitted from the scheme at a request from the DCC Roads & Traffic Department.

- The Church Bar is concerned with the proposal to remove the railings along their boundary with the park.

Response: This proposal will only happen with full agreement with the bar and at an appropriate time in the future.

- Dublin Town and Dublin City Centre Traders Alliance Ltd submitted observations. Dublin Town were supportive of the scheme. Both groups expressed their opinion that the Tram Café had resolved much of the anti-social activity in the space. DCCTA didn't see the value of any further redevelopment of the park.

Thirty eight of the submissions contained the same observations. Their main observations were as follows:

- The pre-2001 park and garden grass should be restored.

Response: The proposed design includes a large lawn area which will restore the park character.

- Railings should be introduced around the park.

Response: The park has evolved into an open, accessible park and the proposal to extend the space out over Wolfe Tone Street will create a larger public space in this part of the city which is devoid of quality green space.

- Does not support the addition of more concrete paving to the park, a substantial lawn would be more appropriate.

Response: No extra concrete paving is being added and a substantial lawn is being proposed.

- Objection to the removal of carparking from around the park.

Response: The carparking bays along Jervis Street will be retained

- Objection to the removal of headstones from the west side of the park.

Response: The headstones are being moved to a more protected, appropriate location on the south end of the park. This will be done using best practice under the supervision of a consultant archaeologist and the City Archaeologist.

- Objection to the removal of the bronze cow sculpture from the park

Response: This piece of sculpture is being retained in the park.

Conclusion

In terms of policy context, the park has a zoning of Z9 in the current Dublin City Development Plan (2016-22):

‘to protect, provide and improve recreational amenity and open space and green networks’.

In terms of Wolfe Tone Street, Chapter 10 and section 16.2 of the Development Plan have relevance to the proposed changes to the street. Section 16.2 states that:

‘The philosophy of the planning authority is to develop a planning approach that values urbanism and the creation of vibrant, safe, comfortable and attractive places where people want to live, work, meet and enjoy their leisure time. Legibility, connectiveness, identity, diversity and quality in the public domain are key objectives which will be sought in all proposed developments. **The relationship between the street/public space/ square, the building and their use will be of paramount importance.**’

This proposal meets the objectives laid out in the DCC Development Plan as well as the other relevant corporate policy documents. Having considered all the observations, this proposal addresses any concerns raised. It is our intention to bring this Part 8 to the City Council for approval.



Revised layout with works omitted from Jervis Street. Note the revised site outline marked in red