

WELSH CHAPEL

An application to erect a commemorative plaque by the Welsh Society of Ireland, at 77A Talbot Street was received by Dublin City Council on *16th October 2015*.

The application was considered by the Commemorative Naming Committee at its meeting in *January 2016*.

At the *March 2016* Commemorative Naming meeting the members agreed the proposed wording on the plaque and the application was approved. The Welsh Society had received consent from the owners of the building to erect the plaque on condition that they co-ordinate with the current tenants.

Site visits were carried out by this section. It was felt that to erect a DCC plaque on the building in its current state would not be appropriate as the plaque would be lost in the very detailed artwork.

We tried contacting the owners to discuss the façade of the building and options around improving it. We were unable to contact them by phone. We then sent registered letters to which there was no response.

The Commemorative Naming Committee were updated on the appropriateness of the façade of the building where the plaque was to be placed. It was decided to contact the Conservation Section for advice.

In the meantime we were successful in contacting the current tenant of the building who runs 6 businesses inside the building. We met him on site and discussed options regarding improving the façade. The tenant was reluctant to change the current artwork but was agreeable to allow us to paint a section of the upper level of the building which would allow the plaque to stand out somewhat. This would not be the preferred option to erect the plaque. Some monetary assistance was offered to help improve the building. The tenant said he would speak with his business partner and get back to us.

Having looked at the building again, which had deteriorated since the previous visit, it was noted that the building is in need of some good maintenance and repair especially to the roof, gutters and front elevation which have buddleia growth. Some windows on the first floor are broken.

Members of the Commemorative Naming Committee were updated at its meeting on 18th January 2017. Following a discussion on various options of erecting the plaque, members agreed that the plaque should not be erected on the façade of the building in its current state of disrepair.

We met with the Conservation Office for advice. They will arrange a conservation officer to inspect, photograph and provide a recommendation as to whether it would be a candidate for a Section 59 notice. Section 59 is a mechanism whereby the Planning Authority can serve a notice (under Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000) on owners

where a 'protected structure' is becoming endangered due to lack of maintenance and repair.

We are awaiting a report on this.

Culture, Recreation and Economic Services.

27th February 2017.