



18 January 2020

Ms Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
BT1 5 GS

Dear Suzanne

Ref: James Connolly Belfast Heritage Trail

Redhead Exhibition has been commissioned to design and install a James Connolly Heritage trail in Belfast that places a plaque at a number of sites of historical significance throughout the City. The trail will target local and international visitors and is being integrated into the City's tourism capital via Visit Belfast and other City tourism outlets.

The trail is being funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund through Áras Uí Chonghaile the James Connolly Visitor Centre and local tourism body Fáilte Feirste Thiar.

There are 12 proposed locations for the trail such as Custom House Steps (the scene of Connolly's first speech in the city), Corporation Street (where the offices of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union ITGWU were located), York Street (where Connolly worked with the millworkers) and naturally the family home on Falls Road opposite the City Cemetery.

The trail has been designed as a walking tour and will be supported by an innovative augmented reality app that facilitates the presentation of dynamic interpretive content via smartphone and tablet devices.

The tour will begin in the grounds of City Hall, a natural meeting and focal point. City Hall is also an ideal location to engage visitors with augmented reality content through the app that sets out the social, economic and political context of Belfast at that time.

To that end, the historical context augmented reality presentation at City Hall would focus on Belfast in 1912 as an industrial powerhouse, the development of the middle-class suburbs, the Home Rule debate, the establishment of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Irish Volunteers and the arrival in the City of James Connolly the trade union pioneer.

The trail will have 12 historical plaques installed at the identified sites of historical significance and in support of the content as outlined above, we are requesting that one be facilitated in the grounds at Belfast City Hall. The plaque would be used by visitors to 'trigger' the app content and begin the navigation features for the walking tour.

The plaques will be circular in shape, 400mm in diameter and retain a consistent design across the various sites as proposed. Please see attached design and location proposal.

All costs for design, manufacture and installation of the plaques is being met by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and no request for funding is being made to the Council. However, we would request permission to install one of the plaques within the grounds at City Hall, being 'stop' 1 of 12 for the trail which is scheduled to be launched at the end of March.

There is also another plaque proposed for Gt. George's Street where Connolly's published articles in the *Shan Van Vocht* were printed. It would be ideal to locate this plaque on the railings of the adjacent BCC York Street carpark.

Please let us know if these requests can be facilitated and if appropriate with whom we should liaise with regard to the relevant permission and installation requirements.

Kind regards

Michael Lyons
Assistant Director