The RATHMINES INITIATIVE

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19th February 2025

Minister James Lawless,
Deputy Ivana Bacik,
Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,
Deputy James Geoghegan,
Deputy Eoin Hayes,
Senator Michael McDowell,
Councillors of the South East Area Committee: Emma Blain, Hazel Chu, David Coffey, Fiona Connolly, Tara Deacy, Pat Dunne, Rory Hogan, Patrick Kinsella, Dermot Lacy, Carolyn Moore and Punam Rane.

**Re: Renovation of Concert Hall, Rathmines Town Hall**

Dear Minister, Senator, Deputies and Councillors,

The Rathmines Initiative wrote to you and your predecessors in October 2023 supporting Senator McDowell's initiative concerning the renovation of the Concert Hall at Rathmines Town Hall (copy attached).

We are concerned that since then, despite the obvious need for this development and the widespread support for the project, very little has been achieved.

We understand that the Arts Council has made a grant to fund a conservation study of the building, but that the study has not yet taken place. Thus it appears to us that there is a marked lack of urgency to advance the project on the part of the decision-makers involved.

As the Senator pointed out at the end of 2023, public cultural venues have become scarce in the city, particularly those of this size, and this one would serve a wide catchment area at a location well served with public transport as well as availing of underground public parking in the adjacent Swan Centre, which is underused in the evening time.

We would kindly request you to use your influence to enquire as to the stage of the project and to encourage its speedy progress.

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Ciarán McGahon, pp The Rathmines Initiative*