THE RATHMINES INITIATIVE

c/o 6 Prince Arthur Terrace,
Rathmines,
Dublin 6.

Senator Michael McDowell,
Minister Eamon Ryan,
Deputy Ivana Bacik,
Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,
Deputy Chris Andrews,
Councillors Mary Freehill, Dermot Lacy, James Geoghegan, Anne Feeney, Deirdre Conroy, Claire O'Connor, Pat Dunne, Carolyn Moore, Hazel Chu, Pat McCartan and Tara Deacy,

10th October 2023

Re: Renovation of Concert Hall, Rathmines Town Hall

Dear Minister, Senator, Deputies and Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the Rathnimes Initiative to express our support for Senator McDowell's initiative concerning the renovation of the Concert Hall at Rathmines Town Hall.

As the Senator has pointed out, 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.

It is also the case that the project would align with the best principles of sustainability, restoring to its original purpose a space already in existence, and one located within a notable building of historic value, which must be conserved in any case. As Minister Malcolm Noonan is quoted: "the greenest building is one which already exists."

It is encouraging to note that Minister Noonan has already visited the site and supports the initiative, along with Minister Simon Harris. We wish Senator McDowell well in his planned meeting with Minister Catherine Martin.

Yours sincerely

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Ciarán McGahon

The Rathmines Initiative is a group of individuals of differing backgrounds seeking to enhance the quality of life of the diverse community in Rathmines by working in co-operation with statutory, voluntary and commercial bodies and public representatives. The Rathmines Initiative was formed in 1998.

The area of interest is Rathmines Road Lower and Upper, i.e. between Portobello Bridge and Dartry.