

## Local Authority Boundary Commission

### Submission

I make my submission from my observations as a long-time resident and community person in the Terenure area and also as a Dublin City Councillor serving the Rathmines Electoral Area. Through my membership of the Terenure Village Network (an amalgam of local residents associations and the Terenure traders) and other community activities I am aware that many people feel frustrated by the present situation. From meetings I have attended with residents of Harold's Cross, I understand that they hold much the same views

**I believe, and have held the view for a long time, that Terenure is disadvantaged because the Local Electoral Area boundary runs down the middle of the main street of the village thereby dividing the community in two as regards local authority services and putting the two elements of our village at the periphery of both local authority areas.**

The terms of reference of the Boundary Commission ask that account be taken, first, of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterland of population centres. I believe that restoring all of Terenure and Harold's Cross into the Rathmines Local Electoral Area would achieve this.

As a Councillor, I can see the great success of the plans for Ranelagh and applaud the plans that DCC have initiated for Rathmines. I am also aware that plans are at an early stage for major community developments in Rathgar village. Similar plans for Terenure are frustrated because of the split of the village between South East Area and South Central Area.

There are a number of examples of the way in which Terenure is disadvantaged, e.g.

- There is very serious traffic congestion in the Terenure area. Local people have taken to the street to protest in the past two years. The comment is often made locally that we seem to be perceived as a crossroads for commuters, not a residential community. We seem, under the present arrangements, to make little progress. Traffic is backed up all the way along Terenure Road West while Terenure Road East is free. In the evening, all of Terenure traffic is badly affected by the lights at the Dodder. At the moment, three councils would need to come together to resolve the problem, i.e. DCC, South Dublin CC and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown because our area is at the periphery of all three. However, if the Terenure area was combined as suggested above we would be better positioned to negotiate improvements.
- There are two local primary schools in the Terenure area; one is in the Crumlin Local Electoral area and one in the Rathmines Local Electoral area. Again, issues of common primary educational interest are more difficult to progress because they are split between two areas.
- Recently I attended a meeting convened by the Kimmage Walkinstown Crumlin Drimnagh Partnership in the Terenure Enterprise Centre because there is a proposal to include Terenure in this Partnership Area. This is contrary to our natural affiliations with the Rathmines area. For example, the Terenure Enterprise Centre was the principal mover in the initial establishment of the Rathmines Information Centre which has since prospered and is now the Rathmines Partnership.

- The two areas that I propose should come together were, in fact, until 1991 all part of the Rathmines Local Electoral Area which was eminently effective and sensible, and I believe a return to that arrangement should be implemented.
- The electorate at the 2004 local elections in the Rathmines area was 24,594 giving 6,148 electors per seat, whereas the Crumlin electorate was 38,646 i.e. 7,729 per seat, which suggests that there is adequate scope for restoring all of Terenure/Harold's Cross to the Rathmines Electoral Area.

What I am suggesting is that it would benefit the communities in Terenure and Harold's Cross if the boundary of the Rathmines Electoral Area ran along HX Road as far as HX Park and then kept right along Lr Kimmage Road and Fortfield Road and down from there to the Dodder.

I believe it would be to the benefit of everyone if communities are given the best opportunities possible to work together and also work together as a unit with the local authority for the benefit of the community. This includes young people, old people, families and the wider communities working as a unit through residents associations, community organisations, sporting organisations and Neighbourhood Watch. It would also correspond with the terms of reference objective of "preserving natural communities".