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Date: 10/02/2008 21:59
Subject: Submission Cllr John Ryan

For the attention of the Secretary Electoral Area Boundary Commission

Subject: Bray Town Council Area and Bray Electoral Area

Date: Monday 11th February 2008

Proposed Change to Bray Town Council Ward System and Bray Electoral Area.

Currently the Bray Electoral Area is split into three wards for elections to Bray Town Council, a six seater and two three seaters. These wards do not reflect the populations. Very few people understand the ward system or indeed relate to a particular ward. Your commission will probably need to review and redraw the boundaries. This will be a difficult task, I feel, as three four seaters would result in wards with no geographic sense. Therefore I propose that the ward system is abolished and that all 12 seats on Bray Town Council are elected from the town as a whole as is the case in Wexford and Kilkenny for example.

While I realise that your terms of reference say that you should not breach county boundaries I believe that Bray is an exceptional case. A large part of the town is effectively disenfranchised because while they live in and relate to Bray Town they elect members to Dun Laoire Rathdown a county that plays virtually no significance to their lives, therefore I feel that residents in Corke Abbey, Woodbrook Lawn, Old Connaught Avenue etc should be allowed vote in Bray Town Council Elections.

Finally with regard to the Bray Electoral Area which elects 7 members to Wicklow County Council, I believe that the Bray Area should be expanded to take in the whole of Roundwood Village. At present Roundwood Village is split in two for local elections between the East and Bray electoral Areas. This means that it is served by 12 councillors, however because everybody has responsibility often nobody takes it and the people suffer poor representation.

Thank You for your time and good luck with your report and recommendations.

Cllr John Ryan