

(Communities for Sustainable Development)

Model Farm Road,
Cork.

ôHilltopö

The Secretary,
Electoral Boundary Committee,
Custom House,
Dublin1.

1st March 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

We wish to make the following submission on the electoral boundaries as they apply to local elections at present.

The saying ôgood fences make good neighboursö should be adapted and applied to boundaries with regard to local elections i.e. ôgood boundaries makes for good elections.ö

We suggest that natural borders such as rivers etc should define Ward boundaries as using the existing system where the white line in the middle of a road is dividing Wards and as a result communities, leads to apathy towards the body politic and is creating sub areas that are very poorly represented.

We would like to comment on, and suggest changes for one area in particular;

The Cork South West Ward covers the Wilton, Bishopstown area as far as the south side of the Model Farm Road, however the north side of the Model Farm Road including Farranlea Park is covered by the North West Ward thus dividing our community.

As a natural border i.e. the river Lee lays only 200 meters to the North of the Farranlea Park, Model Farm Road area we ask that the north side of Model Farm Road and the Farranlea Park areas be transferred to the South West Ward (a similar adjustment was done in recent times for general elections). This would have the positive effect of making residents of the area in question feel included in the political process, would result in people that live in a ônatural southsideö area electing Councillors that live and understand the area, would ensure proper and fair public representation and would also help increase the turnout for elections for the area.

This boundary revision if implemented would satisfy the one of the Terms of Reference below as set out by the Minister;

âö take due account first of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres, and secondly of the desirability, where it may be possible to do so, of aligning local electoral area boundaries with Dáil constituency boundariesö.

For and on behalf of Communities for Sustainable Development,

Yours sincerely,

Mick Murphy
(Spokesperson)
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