

Na Traiceanna,
An Daingean,
Co. Chiarraí.
10.1.2008

A Chara,

The protection and promotion of the Irish Language is enshrined in Legislation, including being a mandatory objective of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

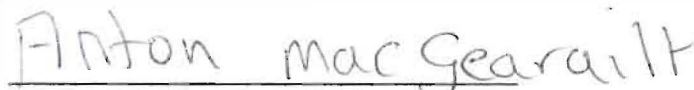
It is imperative for local democracy and the representation of the Irish Speakers of The Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht that they have strong political representation at a local level in order to preserve and promote policies in relation to the Gaeltacht Communities and the Irish Language.

The current Dingle Electoral Boundary ensures that candidates from the Gaeltacht have a fair chance at being elected, as the portion of Gaeltacht speakers is sufficiently large to ensure that their views are represented.

An expansion or division of the Dingle electoral area would mean that the relative portion of Gaeltacht residents as a portion of the overall Electorate would decline, thus resulting in the loss of representation at political level locally. This would have severe, dramatic, and negative implications for the people of West Kerry. Furthermore it would result in the election of one and probably two councillors from outside the Gaeltacht area who apart from being unable to speak Irish in an intelligible manner would have little or no understanding or care for the issues and difficulties that we face in an ever declining Gaeltacht. In short this will serve as another nail in the coffin and will destroy the West Kerry Gaeltacht community.

I would therefore urge you to consider this important issue for the people of the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht before deciding on any alternative to the Dingle Council Electoral area Boundary.

Is mise le meas,



Antóin Mac Gearailt.