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Date: 06/03/2008 22:49
Subject: Local authority bboundaries - Dublin City

As a resident of the Terenure area (and chairman of one of the local residents associations, although I am writing in a personal capacity), I would like to make a submission that all of Terenure being the areas called Terenure B, C and D, Rathmines West E and Rathfarnham A be included in the one local authority electoral area. I do this because I am convinced that Terenure is continuously disadvantaged by being split into two areas both for Dail and for local electoral purposes.

To give three examples

1. there is a horrendous traffic problem in Terenure village, which the City Council will not address. One of the excuses offered is that there are two different City Council local authority areas being South East and South West I think. I am aware that the county is also an issue in this.
2. Our local umbrella group has been looking for urban improvement in Terenure village for ages. All of the urban villages around seem to be getting attention, including Rathgar, Rathfarnham (in the county) Crumlin and Rathmines. I am convinced that our split status is contributing to this neglect.
3. We are being told at the moment that for area partnership purposes we must affiliate with Crumlin, Drimnagh, Walkinstown and Kimmage, areas with which quite frankly we have little in common. This is clear from the topics discussed at meetings seeking to drum up interest in the Terenure area. We have structures in place which span both sides of the village, which we would like to involve in this. While we are assured that the boundary will make no difference, we remain to be convinced about this. We have in fact been ignored by the area partnership structure up to now.

While I am not qualified to speak for Harolds Cross, I believe issues 2 and 3 apply to them equally. We point this out because we believe that an equally good case can be made for associating the area Terenure A with Rathmines West A and F.

Until 1991 the two areas we want to bring together were all part of the Rathmines LEA and since then it is notable that no councillor has been elected (over 2 elections and 18 possible seats) whose primary support base is in Terenure in either Rathmines or Crumlin Kimmage LEA. It is true that Cllr Eric Byrne lives in Terenure, but his support base clearly seems to be in Crumlin.

If you look at a map you will see that there is a fairly substantial natural boundary to the west of this area starting at the canal with the Hospice, Mount Jerome cemetery, Mount Argus and the shopping area at Sundrive. There is a smaller area from there to the county boundary being the River Poddle and associated parkland. The population of Terenure A to D is 9,237 which is very close to the average population per council seat of 9,735. Thus it is a neat area representing 1 seat which could be moved. If it was desired to get the population even nearer, the estates to the east of the Poddle River

could also be moved.

Moving Rathmines West A, E and F and Rathfarnham DED is more problematic as their population is 16,000 and also Rathfarnham is an irregular area that goes as far as Milltown.

Your primary objective (in paragraph 2) seems to be the drawing up of electoral areas which would (as far as practicable) have an urban or neighbourhood focal point or points. I think a redrawn Rathmines area would have Rathmines and Terenure as two natural focal points. I would point out that anyone who knows Terenure would recognize the close ties with Rathmines; for example most of our buses to town 15, 15A, 15B, 74A, 65 and 65B go that way and a lot of local people use facilities such as Rathmines library. I would also point out that the Terenure area was in the past a part of Rathmines UCDC as is evidenced for example by a plaque at Kimmage Road West.

Your terms of reference ask you *subject to paragraph 2 *to take account *first* of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres. I believe that keeping Terenure and Harolds Cross all in the one area achieves this as Terenure A, B, C and D are all hinterland of Terenure and Harolds Cross.

I would accept that the above does not respect the constituency boundary but this is a second objective and I would submit very strongly that it is particularly unfair on communities if they are separated for all such purposes, at least where both bits are in the same local authority and do not need to be separated. In any event constituency boundaries will not be respected in Dublin in the case of Dublin South Central, because it crosses a county boundary as indeed is the case for North East and I believe North West.

I also know that continuity (which your terms suggest is subject to all of the above) is not being maintained. However I suspect that the fact that existing Rathmines is under for 4 seats, coupled with the likelihood that the Pembroke and SE Inner City 3 seaters may have to go, will make it unlikely that continuity in Rathmines can be achieved.

I would conclude by submitting that your recommendations should re-unite Terenure, a natural community in the one local authority area. This is wholly consistent with the two principal terms of reference given to your committee and would be a major boost to our efforts to ensure that the issues in the area are addressed properly in our local authority.

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