

ELECTORAL AREAS SLIGO

Most of the Local Electoral Areas in County Sligo fall within the terms of reference of The Electoral Area Boundary Committee. The exception is the Dromore West L.E.A. which elects 3 County Councillors. 3 seat L.E.A's can be recommended in exceptional circumstances and I believe that such circumstances pertain in this area. This area is known as West Sligo or The Barony of Tireiragh.

In order to create a four seat L.E.A. in West Sligo it would be necessary to increase the population base by extending the borders into the Ballymote electoral area thus reducing that area by one seat. This would create a district which would be located along the route from Ballina to Collooney. The new "four seater" would have two areas of medium to high population connected by a narrow strip of sparsely populated area of approximately ten miles. The resultant L.E.A. would in effect be two smaller distinct areas of population with nothing much in common bar the name of the new entity. As Tubbercurry is an area with only four seats there would be no possibility of expanding into that district.

West Sligo is triangular in shape with the Mayo Border, The Ox Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean forming the three sides. The market town of Ballina is the urban area or focal point for the district although it is located outside its political boundaries. All of Tireiragh is located within the Diocese of Killala.

Some of the issues which are of political consequence in this area at the moment are Coastal erosion, Clár funding, Upgrading of the N59, Broadband availability, Water charges, Rural planning, Blue flag designation and Dept. of Agriculture supports. Some of these issues are also topical in other areas but taken together they are unique to West Sligo.

Where as the Sligo Champion, Sligo Weekender and Ocean FM would be the principle media providers in Co Sligo it is The Western People and Mid West Radio that dominate the scene in Tireiragh.

The fact that this L.E.A. is a "Three seater" has never adversely affected the Democratic process. The area has always recorded a high turnout with polling of over 85% being consistently recorded at some stations during plebiscites.



**Gerald O'Connor,
Skreen,
Co Sligo.**

0876822365