



TERENURE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

3 Lakelands Park,
Terenure,
Dublin 6w.

Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee,
Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government,
The Customs House (Room 2.03)
Dublin 1.

7th March 2008.

Local Electoral Boundaries, Terenure, Dublin City

Dear Sirs,

Terenure Residents' Association represents around 800 households in the area between Terenure Cross and the Dublin City Boundary. The present boundary between Dublin City Council's electoral areas of Crumlin/Kimmage and Rathmines is the centre of the main thoroughfare Harold's Cross Rd./Terenure Rd. North/Rathfarnham Rd. from the Grand Canal to the City Boundary. It is also the boundary between the Dáil constituencies of Dublin South Central and Dublin South East. The members of this Association are most unhappy with this local electoral boundary as it affects the Terenure area, and we are making this submission to request a change for the following reasons:

1. Terenure is a natural community which has existed for well over a hundred years and this boundary runs right through the middle of it. The Parish of Terenure is thus similarly divided. Effectively this means that the community as a unit is not properly represented at Council level. The boundary also runs through the middle of this Association's area so we have to deal with two sets of local and Dáil representatives. We note that it is part of your committee's terms of reference to take account of and preserve natural communities.
2. The City administration is now divided on the basis of the electoral areas. This means that two separate units have to be involved for anything other than very confined local issues. The boundary line is the main thoroughfare through Terenure which means that different planning and development officers are responsible for either side of the road. This is most unsatisfactory and it is proving very difficult to make any progress on development and environmental improvement plans. The other village centres in the immediate area, Crumlin, Rathmines and Rathgar have had improvement schemes but it is proving impossible to get anything done for Terenure. Terenure falls between two stools with nobody prepared to take responsibility for the area as a whole.

3. It is part of your committee's terms of reference that electoral areas should have an urban focal point. There is no such focal point in the Crumlin/Kimmage electoral area which is in any way relevant to Terenure. On the other hand, Rathmines is a natural focal point for the area. Terenure developed as an extension to the old Rathmines Urban area and is very compatible in most ways. There is a bus service almost every five minutes from Terenure to Rathmines and there are only very sparse services to the Crumlin/Kimmage centres.
4. There are five active residents' associations and a traders' association in the Terenure area. These six bodies have a combined representative grouping. This obviously has to operate in two electoral areas as do two of the five residents' associations.

The above difficulties can only be resolved by moving the boundary between the Crumlin/Kimmage and Rathmines so that all of Terenure is included in the Rathmines area. For the reasons stated above, this is its natural affiliation. We would like to see the boundary between the electoral areas moved westwards to coincide with the Poddle River. This is the most natural boundary line available. Logically this new boundary should extend from the Grand Canal to the County/City boundary at Fortfield Rd. Such a boundary will not divide communities and will have the added advantage of including all of Harold's Cross in one area.

The same existing boundary line coincides with the Boundary between the Dáil constituencies of Dublin South East and Dublin South Central. We are aware of the desirability of having Dáil and local boundaries coincide and submit that this Dáil constituency boundary be moved, at the earliest opportunity, to coincide with the local area boundary proposed above. All of the arguments for moving the local boundary apply equally to the Dáil boundary.

A map showing the suggested change is attached.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Dowling, Chairman

