

Drumsheel Lower  
Cong  
Co. Mayo

05 March 2008

To whom it may concern

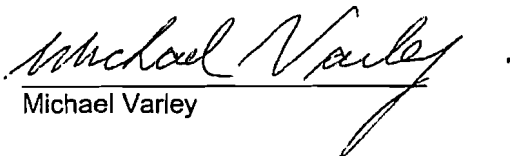
I wish to make a submission on the possibility of a merger of the Ballinrobe electoral area, as it now stands, with the Claremorris electoral area. I make the submission for the following reasons:

1. If the merger were to happen Ballinrobe could lose its status as an independent electoral area, which would be a reprobate step for the community.
2. There has been an increase of **8.3% in the population** of the Ballinrobe catchment area between 2002 and 2006. The town of Ballinrobe is the fastest growing town in the Mayo, where there was an increase of **24.4% in the population**. For clarification purposes, the population of Ballinrobe town has exceeded that of Claremorris town.
3. At present the electoral area of Tourmakeady, which consists of areas 033, 035, 037 and 047 are categorised within the Castlebar electoral catchment area. People of Tourmakeady have informed me that it is of no advantage to them, to be categorised with Castlebar. Their most local town is Ballinrobe, where they carry out most of their business and they would have easy access to their councillors here. Tourmakeady is also part of the Lake District for fishing and tourism purposes and they have a great affinity with the people of this area. It is also attached to Ballinrobe Council Engineering Area.
4. As local electoral area meetings are held in Ballinrobe, it offers the opportunity for people to attend such meetings locally.

Therefore, could it then be possible to increase the Ballinrobe electoral area to take in Ballintubber, Clogher and any adjacent areas, to increase the population of the Ballinrobe area to make it a four seat constituency. This would preserve the Independence at local and national level and best serve the interests of the citizens of the fourth largest town in Mayo and its environs.

Thanking you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely

  
Michael Varley