

7-3-'08

Knocklonegad,
Garryhill,
Bagenalstown,
Co. Carlow.

Dear Sir,

Regarding the review of local electoral areas as requested by the Minister for the Environment, I would be grateful if you could bear in mind the following observations which I have made after some careful consideration.

At the outset I wish to point out that I live in the Borris electoral area in County Carlow and I am writing to stress the importance of preserving this unit in its current form in as much as possible. I would base my case to you on the following points.

By and large this area has in the past, and more particularly in recent years, functioned very satisfactorily giving good representation to its constituents.

Secondly, I note that the terms of reference for the committee require you to take due account of the "desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres".

With particular reference to the second point above I would urge you to consider the following suggestions:

1. Restore the Shangarry DED to the Borris electoral area thus re-establishing the entire Parish of Myshall as a unit within the area. In the past this dividing of the parish has undoubtedly caused problems as it is a very vibrant and active community as demonstrated by their recent win in the All Ireland Pride of Place. Also clubs and organisations in the area tend to be parish based.
2. Include the DED's of Fenagh and Ballymoon into the area. I make this suggestion on the basis that for a long number of years now the communities of Fenagh and Ballinkillen have had a very close association with each other, for example their GAA clubs are inextricably linked whereby players play their football with Fenagh and their hurling with Ballinkillen. This also applies to camogie and ladies football. It is also fair to say that these areas are traditionally seen as a rural unit within Bagenalstown parish.
3. Finally as the number of councillors should not be less than 4, I would suggest that both the Borris and Bagenalstown electoral areas become 4 seat constituencies. Substantial developments in the villages of Myshall and Fenagh should sufficiently support the extra seat in the Borris area.

I make this submission based on my experiences as a community activist in the area. I live in the parish of Myshall, I am halfway between Fenagh and Ballinkillen, my children attend secondary school in Borris and as a family we are involved in many local organisations. I wholeheartedly agree with the minister's "desirability of preserving natural communities" and it is with this in mind that I respectfully ask you to seriously consider my suggestions.

Yours Sincerely


Peter O' Rourke