

Submission of Blessington & District Forum

According to the 2006 census the population of West Wicklow is 17,000, spread fairly evenly between "South" (Baltinglass area) to "North" (Blessington area).

The Blessington area has been identified as a Primary Local Growth Centre with further growth in the "North" area expected up to 2010 and thereafter.

The Blessington area, when added to bordering electoral areas Kilbride, Lacken, Hollywood and Togher, gives the "North" area population of 8,251. This population is a 41% increase on the 1996 census figure.

We are requesting consideration of the following in the light of these population trends/shifts:

1. The West Wicklow area should be allocated an additional county councillor to bring representation from 3 to 4, based on population trends in the area and when compared with Bray showing that we have a population ratio to councillor which is 12% greater.
2. The Blessington electoral area has a present population per the 2006 census of 5,533. This town boundary should be extended to include the areas of Kilmalum and Blessington Manor (presently Kildare area) as these areas form part of the natural community of Blessington town. The establishment of a town council based on the population figures could be then arranged.
3. The natural division Wicklow into East and West of the hills would lend to the setting up of a West Wicklow Council similar to Tipperary North and South Riding. This area as per the 2006 census has a population of 17,000

Mr. M. Sargent,

Red Lane,

12, Baggot St. Dublin 2