

The Electoral Area Boundary Committee,
Room 2.03,
Custom House,
Dublin 1

Re County Mayo-Castlebar Electoral Area

6/3/2008

Dear Sir, Madam

In reference to the redrawing of rural electoral boundaries following the 2006 census the local Press has outlined that there will be major changes to the Ballinrobe boundary, which adjoins Castlebar Electoral area.

The last boundary commission revision in the late 1990s hived off a section of West Mayo i.e., Roslee, Newbrook, Burriscarra and Portroyal to a newly established Electoral Area, Ballinrobe which was a new 3 seat area for Council Elections. As one who has been involved in community Development, Sporting and Cultural matters in this Community and Parish, Burriscarra/Ballintubber for over 20 years I have always regarded the changes as being negative and alien to the well-being of the area. Ballintubber G.A.A Club caters for male footballers from across this region, Tawnghy, Burriscarra, Roslee and Newbrook (Part). Likewise Carnacon ladies Club caters for footballers from all of these town lands within the ancient Parish of Burriscarra/Ballintubber. FAS and Rural Social Schemes were always ran on a Parish basis and dealing with two different Council Offices in relation to such matters can be unduly cumbersome. These communities are also part of the Tochar Valley Network the main development agency in the region. Yet the last boundary revision in the late 1990s sundered the Parish in two by hiving off a large section of it to create the new Ballinrobe Electoral Area. Also the people resident in these communities have a natural affiliation with West Mayo and Castlebar in particular, regarding, Shopping, Entertainment, Education, Schools and Social outlets.

Please consider in the context of returning the Ballinrobe to its natural hinterland, Claremorris in South Mayo and forming a 6 seat area, that the above listed town lands be returned to Castlebar Area to form a new 7 seat Council area.

This would reunite the Parish of Burriscarra/Ballintubber for Council Election purposes and perhaps give these neglected rural communities a greater voice and representation in West Mayo, which has been their historic and natural homeland. I wish you every success in all your endeavours.

Best Regards,



Sean Hallinan, Parks, Clogher, Claremorris, Co Mayo /094-9360364