

To whom it may concern:

I represent the Suir Electoral area on Waterford County Council since 1999. The Suir area came into being that year. Previously it was part of the former Kilmacthomas area. This was changed and split in two. The two areas became known as the Suir and Kilmacthomas electoral areas. The Kilmacthomas area also gained some of the former Tramore Area.

The Suir electoral area is rurally based. The biggest centre of population is Portlaw in the south east. It includes part of the South Tipperary Dail Constituency area south of Clonmel. It covers the north of county Waterford south of the river Suir from Kilmanahan to Portlaw. The Comeragh Mountains go through the area. Ballymacarbry and the Nire on the North West and Rathgormack on the south east. This area, the Nire Valley and Rathgormack (although seen as split by Waterford County Council by the Comeragh mountain range in their submission) is actually an ancient district and was for centuries the one parish. There was one communal burial ground in Rathgormack. The dead from the Nire were carried over the mountains through a natural gap still known as the Gap. If the Suir area is split, between the Lismore and Kilmacthomas areas it will mean that the Lismore area will stretch from Youghal Bridge to the Presentation Bridge in Clonmel town. A totally unrealistic area. As it is many of the electorate around Clonmel feel cut off and isolated from the County town, Dungarvan. During the nineteen seventies major once off housing was built on the hills south of Clonmel. So much so that it appears as a housing estate of split level bungalows traversing several parallel minor roads.

The Suir area is a relatively rural district already covering a huge geographical area. People must feel they are represented locally. Lismore is not local to Clonmel! Please do not use what may appear to be convenient geographical landmarks to split areas.

Many thanks,

Mary Greene
Member of Waterford County Council
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