

It is integral that the current composition of the South East Inner City (SEIC) ward remains intact to aid in the proper and efficient operation of the structures, both governmental and voluntary, that are combating poverty, and crime and improving health services in the ward

Pockets of; South Dock, Mansion House A, Woodquay A, Royal Exchange and Pembroke East A are districts that have education, financial and anti-social problems that need to be addressed. Breaking up these areas will diminish the Councils capacity to co-ordinate efficiently to combat these issues.

If the SEIC is carved up again it will hinder an agency like the Dublin Inner City Partnership from operating in an efficient manner. The 2001 government initiative, RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) covers parts of St Kevin's and all of Mansion House A and all of South Dock and should be expanded to include Wood Quay A & B and Royal Exchange A at the next review due to the high level of social deprivation as seen in the demographic profile shown in the 2006 census.

Furthermore, the Dublin Dockland Development Authority remit on the south side of the City covers the Pembroke East, West A, South Dock and parts of the Mansion House. Due to this there is a large interconnection between youth groups, residents , associations and the voluntary sector in the area of social, welfare and educational matters.

This interaction the DDDA fosters is creating a common identity within the Docklands and its hinterland that is binding the communities together, creating a community spirit. If the area was further split into two separate electoral jurisdictions it will hinder the momentum gained in combining the new apartment owners in Mansion House and South Dock with the established residential community in Pembroke East A.

With the closure of Harcourt Street Garda Station, the Pearse Street Garda Station will cover the vast majority of the SEIC. Since the inception of the Community Policing Forum, interaction between elected officials and the Gardai has increased, resulting in improvements in an area that suffers from a high degree of anti-social behaviour. It makes no sense to split the jurisdiction between two separate political jurisdictions and possibly reduce the efficiency of this forum.

Agencies like the HSE and the Drug Task Force operate across the entirety of the SEIC ward and separating this ward will make it more difficult for the synergy of services needed to combat the distinct challenges facing the community, i.e. the illiteracy and anti-social behaviour in Royal Exchange, Woodquay and South Dock/Pembroke East A and the emerging new way of life, apartment living, in South Dock/Pembroke West A and Mansion House A.

Ninety percent of social and affordable housing in Dublin South East is concentrated in the SEIC ward. Expertise at official and elected levels has developed in dealing with and representing the particular issue of housing. This area would be best represented if it was left consolidated, instead of being marginalised in a larger and more affluent electoral ward.

As demonstrated above, the benefits in keeping the SEIC ward intact are substantial and in order to comply with the terms of reference set down by the Minister it is possible for the commission to move Pembroke East B and the remainder of Pembroke West A, which are a part of the hinterland of the Docklands and would be more appropriately placed in the SEIC ward due to the development of the Poolbeg Peninsula by DDDA under section 25 of the planning act.

Based on the 2006 census the SEIC ward population is 34,601, which is increasing monthly due to the rapid completion of apartments in Mansion House A and South Dock, my proposed amendments to the ward would bring the population to approximately 40,000 which would clearly justify a 4 seat ward.

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