

From: Swords Boundary Group <swordsactiongroup@yahoo.com>
To: <electoralareacommittees@environ.ie>
Date: 14/03/2008 15:23
Subject: Electoral Area Submission

Dear Electoral Area Review Committee,

With regard to the Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee review 2008 and with specific reference to the Swords Electoral Ward of Fingal County Council, the Swords Electoral Boundary Action Group would like to make the following submission:

The terms of reference for the Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee include:

2. In carrying out its review, the Committee shall have as an objective the drawing up of electoral areas which (alone or in combination) would, as far as practicable, have an urban or neighbourhood focal point (or points).
3. In recommending changes to local electoral areas, the Committee should, subject to paragraph 2, take due account first of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres, and secondly of the desirability, where it may be possible to do so, of aligning local electoral area boundaries with Dáil constituency boundaries.

We would urge the Dublin and Cities Electoral Area Boundary Committee to disregard the Dáil constituency boundary proposals which are an obstacle to the growth and development of the region and to follow their own terms whereby: "electoral areas" should "have an urban or neighbourhood focal point." Also, they should "take account of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres." It is clear from the terms that Swords, from a geographical, physical and social aspect, should be retained in the one local electoral area.

We would also like to remind the committee that the Dáil boundaries have not been ratified by the Oireachtas and as such should not be considered as official boundaries until such time as they have been ratified. It is therefore out of the committees remit to align the local boundaries with the proposed Dáil boundaries.

Swords should be viewed as one town and the provision of facilities, infrastructure and services should not be confused by dividing or partitioning the town for local elections making it difficult for Swords to grow in a coherent manner.

Following the proposals from the Constituency Commission, it is clear that should the proposals be ratified, it will create great difficulties for the town of Swords to develop. By keeping Swords as one electoral area for local elections, this committee can limit the damage the Constituency Commissions proposals would cause. By dividing the town, it would be inevitable that you would compound and increase the damage caused by these proposals.

Submitted by the Swords Electoral Boundary Action Group

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