

The Secretary,  
Dublin & Cities  
-Electoral Area Boundary Committee Consultation,  
Room 2.03,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1,

March 13<sup>th</sup> 2008

Dear Secretary,

The Jack Clarke Branch of the Labour Party would ask that you consider the following submission when reviewing the Local Electoral Boundaries for Dublin.

In reviewing the electoral areas and boundaries, it is strongly recommended that the Committee totally ignore the proposed new Constituency boundaries. In the Constituency boundaries review a 'top-down' approach was taken. Populations were put together to ensure that the numbers were correct in the first place. No account was done of the desirability of preserving natural communities or the hinterlands of population centres. Accordingly communities and parishes like Swords and Portmarnock were split and put into different constituencies. Arguably that may be okay for a national election, where deputies are involved primarily with national issues and national legislation. However to try and continue these boundaries into local elections would be a total mess and not do justice to Local Government.

Fingal has the largest growth in population, with growth in all areas and massive expansion and Local Area Plans being prepared throughout the County.

A fundamental problem is that the DED boundaries are now totally out of date. Taking the case of Portmarnock, the current DED boundary has Torcaill estate in Malahide East (CM) and Dublin North constituency. The residents here are part of the Portmarnock community and parish, attend local schools, and vote in Portmarnock. Likewise the new developments west of the railway line, including Seabrook Manor and the Council's new social houses (under construction) are likewise in the Portmarnock parish and community. However it is included in Kinsaley (CG) and Dublin North constituency. The rest of Portmarnock is being designated to be included in the Dublin North East constituency.

It is recommended that a bottom-up approach be taken. The Committee should concentrate on keeping communities together for representation. The Fingal Co Council planning boundaries are more relevant and appropriate than the DED boundaries.

Account should be taken of future planning for the County and see that due consideration is taken of that. Some people may argue that Howth and Malahide should lose representation, given 2006 census figures. However those figures are already out of date. The Dublin North City Fringe area, which includes South Portmarnock, Baldoyle racecourse lands, Balgriffin, future developments at Belcamp marrying in with Dublin city's Clongriffin and Belmayne high density developments, has already notably increased in population

Although not within the remit of the consultation, it is our view that the number of Councillors should be increased to take into account not just the growth that has already taken place, but to fulfil the requirement for proper planning and development of the County. Any reduction of representation in any present electoral area would be an injustice to the electorate.

We would ask that you consider the above points when making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Dunne  
Secretary  
Jack Clarke Branch  
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Portmarnock,  
Co Dublin.