

18.017

The Secretary,  
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees

Sir / Madam,

I refer to the Terms of Reference of Committee No. 1, with particular reference to paragraphs 4 and 7(i) thereof.

On behalf of the Kilsheelan Tidy Towns Committee I wish to make the following submission with respect to proposed revisions in local electoral areas for towns with populations of 15,000 or greater (paragraph 4) and for towns which were formerly Borough Councils (paragraph 7(i)).

Clonmel has a population of 17,140 per census 2016 with Co. Tipperary having a total population of 159,553. This would result in an average population/ member for a 5 seat Clonmel electoral area of 3,428 and a 40 seat Tipperary County Council of 3,989.

Clonmel would thus require to add some population from the surrounding areas to get within a range of +/- 10% of the county average.

Kilsheelan and its environs should remain within the Clonmel electoral area for the following reasons:

1. Clonmel needs additional areas to reach the minimum population for 5 members. For geographical reasons, such additional area cannot come from south of the town, as such areas lie within Co. Waterford.
2. Kilsheelan has traditionally been part of the Clonmel electoral area for Co. Council elections.
3. Clonmel Borough Council has in the past been a great support to Kilsheelan through provision of resources such as road sweepers, etc. This arrangement has been enhanced with the formation of the Clonmel Borough District in 2014.
4. Kilsheelan looks to Clonmel for employment, education, shopping, services, etc. It is the nearest and local town of choice. In fact Kilsheelan, while maintaining its identity as a settlement in its own right, has long-standing connections with Clonmel. Many of its residents have family connections with the town and travel to Clonmel to work, shop and attend school.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Respectfully,

Frank O'Meara,  
Secretary,  
Kilsheelan Tidy Towns Development Committee.