

18.076

I wish to submit a boundary submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee reviewing the Local Area for the 2019 Local Elections.

I was first elected to Clare County Council in 1985 and I have served in different areas in West Clare since then. In 2014 the area was increased in size by joining West and North Clare making it far too large to service, being almost 50% the geographical area of County Clare with 49% of the total road network of the Local Authority.

Co. Clare has a total of 4331Km of road network with 2143Km in the West Clare Municipal District and to travel from Loop Head to Ballyvaughan is a distance of 98 Km.

The population is 34,449 having key towns of Ballyvaughan, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin , Ennistymon, Lahinch, Miltown Malbay, Doonbeg, Kilkee and Kilrush with the Wild Atlantic Way running through the area. The population increases dramatically in the tourist season with 1.5 million visiting the Cliff of Moher in 2017.

The seaside resorts of Lahinch, Spanish Point and Kilkee also attract holiday makers from all over Ireland with large numbers of overseas tourists. Especially during the Summer season the explosion in the population have to be catered for and Clare County Council had to split the area in two, back to the original size before 2014 because the engineer in charge was based in Kilrush and it was impossible for him to provide the service required by the public especially with a reduced workforce and lack of funding due to the downturn in the economy.

I request you might consider dividing the area as it was prior to 2014 with a consideration of not dividing parishes with local and community identities and linkages. The parishes of Miltown Malbay and Kilmurry Ibrickan have very close ties and should be left as a unit in one area. At present both parishes are served by the one parish priest when Father Murphy P.P. Miltown Malbay had to retire on health grounds.

If I can be of further help to you and your committee please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

Regards,

Michael Hillery.

10/02/2018.