

16 February 2018

18.122

Dear Secretary,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on the review of local electoral boundaries for the election of Councillors to Kildare County Council, with specific reference to the Naas Local Electoral Area in County Kildare.

The 2013 Boundary review moved the areas of Ballymore Eustace, Kilcullen and Gilltown into the Naas Local Electoral Area. This was widely welcomed by residents in the area, particularly in Ballymore Eustace and Gilltown, where Naas would naturally be the largest neighbouring town and residents would have close connections to Naas – geographically, economically, socially and educationally.

Prior to the 2013 Commission amendments, residents in Ballymore Eustace and Gilltown were situated in the Athy Local Electoral Area and residents found it difficult to understand the rationale for this decision. It is vital that these communities are not treated as lines on a map, a move again and in such quick succession brings no continuity for the area.

Under the terms of reference of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee, the committee must consider:

*“Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around urban villages or have a neighbourhood focal point (or points), taking due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members”*

I respectfully ask the Boundary Committee to strongly consider that the areas of Ballymore Eustace and Gillton remain in the Naas Local Electoral Area. It is imperative that these rural areas are supported in partnership with their local urban centre of Naas.

Kind regards,

*Evie Sammon*

Local Area Representative

Fine Gael