

# Dublin North West Wards

## Executive Summary

I would recommend two wards be created in Dublin North West:

1. Ballymun-Whitehall with five councillors

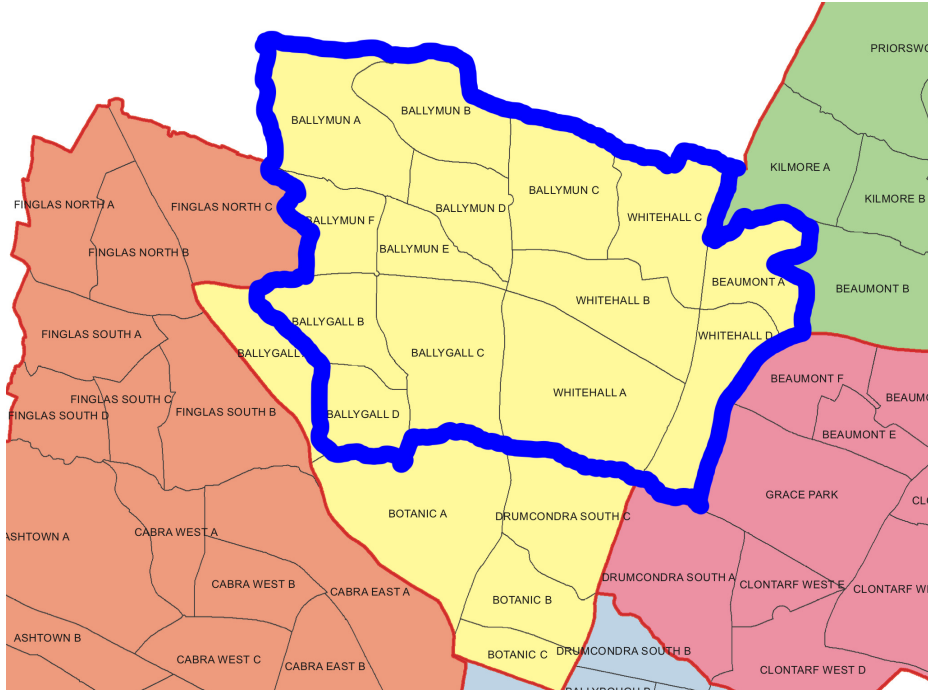


Table 1: Proposed Ballymun Whitehall Ward

DED	Population	Total No. Of Councillors	Population per seat
Beaumont A	2,463		
Whitehall A	3,286		
Whitehall B	4,128		
Whitehall C	2,153		
Whitehall D	3,456		
Ballymun A	4,765		
Ballymun B	4,379		
Ballymun C	6,112		
Ballymun D	2,458		
Ballymun E	1,562		
Ballymun F	2,350		
Ballygall B	1,887		
Ballygall C	3,521		
Ballygall D	2,531		
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,051</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9,010</b>

## 2. Cabra-Finglas with seven councillors

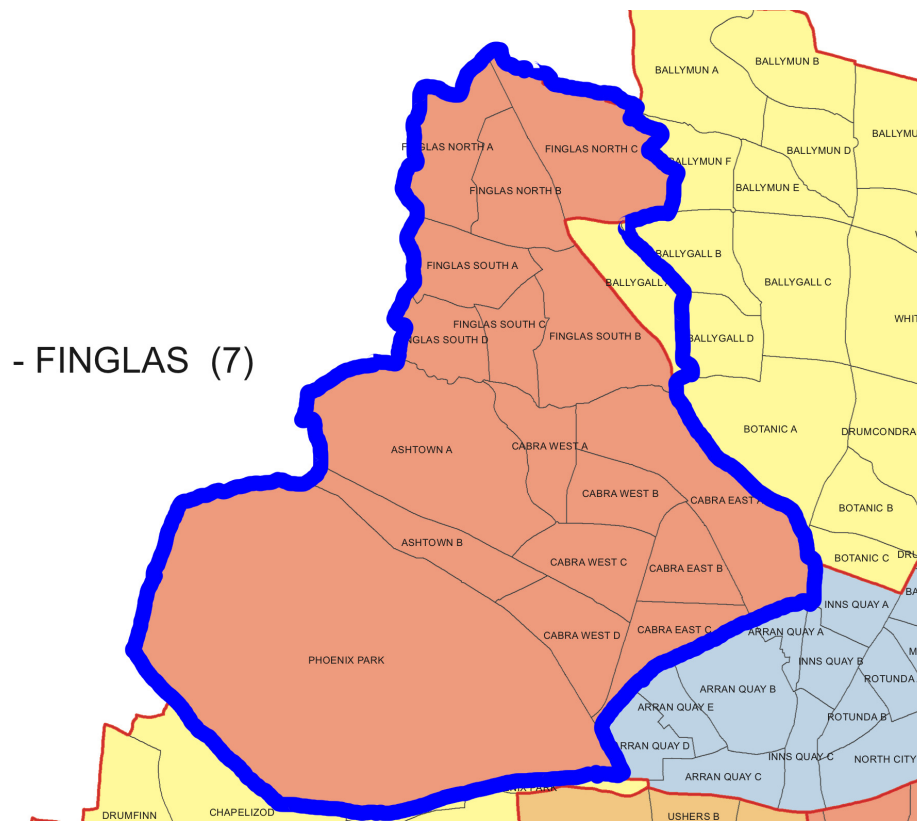


Table 2: Proposed Cabra-Finglas Ward

<b>Ballygall A</b>	3,606		
<b>Finglas North A</b>	3,319		
<b>Finglas North B</b>	2,874		
<b>Finglas North C</b>	3,464		
<b>Finglas South A</b>	2,904		
<b>Finglas South B</b>	4,206		
<b>Finglas South C</b>	2,645		
<b>Finglas South D</b>	2,427		
<b>Cabra East A</b>	5,650		
<b>Cabra East B</b>	3,737		
<b>Cabra East C</b>	4,085		
<b>Cabra West A</b>	1,478		
<b>Cabra West B</b>	2,577		
<b>Cabra West C</b>	2,953		
<b>Cabra West D</b>	2,845		
<b>Ashtown A</b>	10,566		
<b>Ashtown B</b>	2,643		
<b>Phoenix Park</b>	1,534		
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,513</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9,073</b>

## **Introduction**

I've been elected to Dublin City Council for three full council terms since I was first elected in 2004. I currently represent the Ballymun ward. The current layout of the Ballymun ward has worked well, but due to Dáil boundary changes, and to changes to the terms of reference for the boundary committee No. 2 requiring that "... boundaries should respect natural community boundaries, urban villages or neighbourhoods", changes will have to be made to the boundaries within the Dublin North West Dáil constituency.

A total of 63 councillors will be elected to Dublin City Council, which had a population of 554,554 at the census in 2016. So there will be one councillor for every 8,802 people.

Terms of Reference No. 5 for Committee No. 2, states that "The committee should take account of the desirability, where it may be possible to do so, of aligning local electoral area boundaries with Dáil constituency boundaries." The total population of the Dáil constituency of Dublin North West within Dublin City Council's boundaries is 70,496. With one councillor for every 8,802 people, that would give a total of 8.01 councillors. This is too big a population for one ward according to the terms of reference, but too small to be divided into two wards, so at least part of Dublin North West will have to be merged with areas outside of Dublin North West.

There are currently two council wards within Dublin North West: Ballymun and Cabra-Finglas.

The Ballymun Ward is made up of the following DEDs:

- Beaumont A
- Whitehall A

- Whitehall B
- Whitehall C
- Whitehall D
- Ballymun A
- Ballymun B
- Ballymun C
- Ballymun D
- Ballymun E
- Ballymun F
- Ballygall A
- Ballygall B
- Ballygall C
- Ballygall D
- Botanic A
- Botanic B
- Botanic C
- Drumcondra South C

The Cabra-Finglas Ward consists of:

- Finglas North A
- Finglas North B
- Finglas North C
- Finglas South A
- Finglas South B
- Finglas South C
- Finglas South D
- Cabra East A
- Cabra East B

- Cabra East C
- Cabra West A
- Cabra West B
- Cabra West C
- Cabra West D
- Ashtown A
- Ashtown B
- Phoenix Park

These two wards have worked well, but a few changes could address some of their shortcomings and address the terms of reference of Committee 2.

### **Drumcondra**

Changes to the Dáil boundaries since the last local elections mean that DEDs Botanic A, B, C and Drumcondra South C are no longer within Dublin North West. In addition Drumcondra South C, Botanic B and Botanic C are part of the village of Drumcondra, and are separated from other Drumcondra DEDs. I recommend that these four DEDs that aren't in Dublin North West should be removed from the current Ballymun ward to create the new Ballymun-Whitehall ward. This would allow the committee to create a new ward that includes the entire village of Drumcondra, complying with the terms of reference: "In general boundaries should respect natural community boundaries, urban villages or neighbourhoods"

### **Finglas**

The current ward boundaries split the village of Finglas. Most of Finglas is in the current Cabra-Finglas ward, but the Ballygall A DED, which is the heart of the village on the southern side, is in the Ballymun Ward. If the Ballygall A ward is transferred to the Cabra-Finglas ward, the village is unified within the Cabra-Finglas ward. Again this complies with the terms of reference.

If the above recommendations are accepted two new wards will be created:

1. Ballymun-Whitehall with five councillors

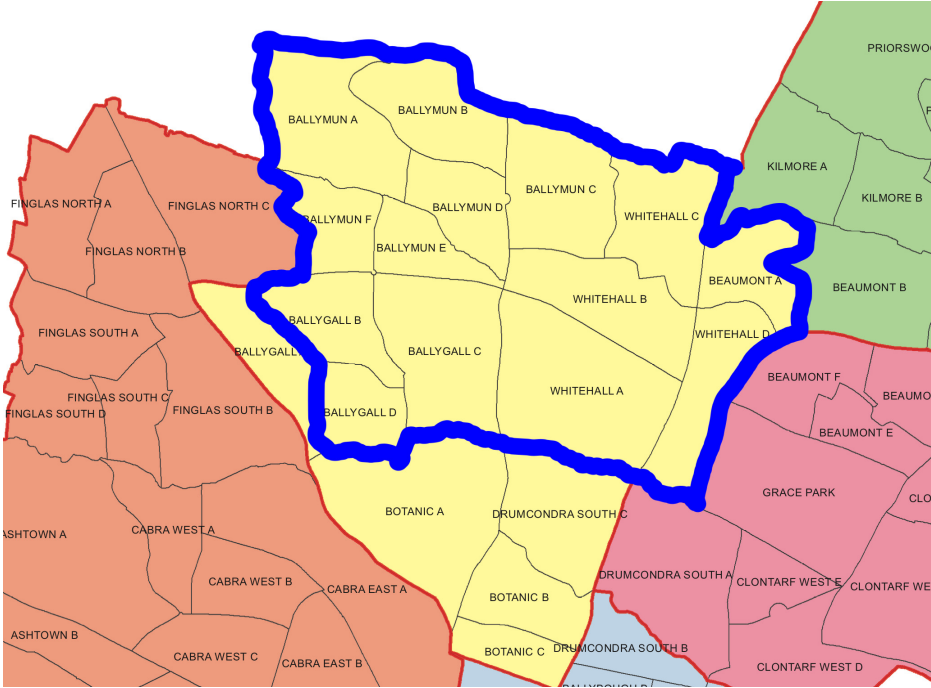


Table 1: Proposed Ballymun Whitehall Ward-1

DED	Population	Total No. Of Councillors	Population per seat
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## 2. Cabra-Finglas with seven councillors

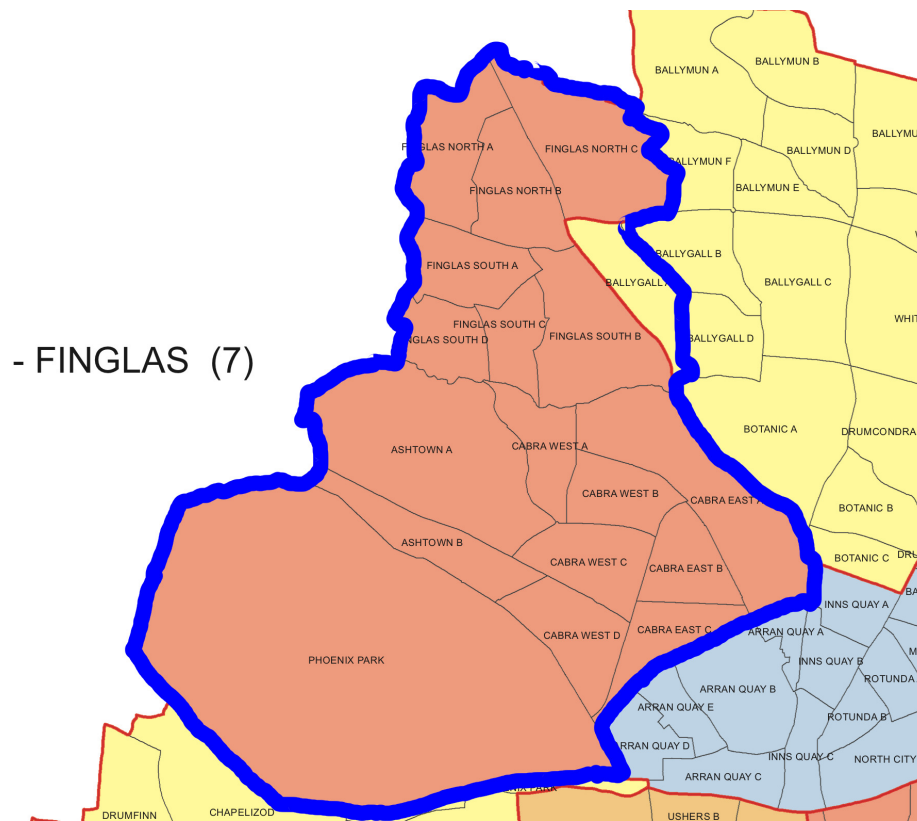


Table 2: Proposed Cabra-Finglas Ward-1

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<b>Total</b>	<b>63,513</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9,073</b>

The advantages of this configuration are:

- there is no radical change to the current configuration, which provides continuity for most residents
- The new Dáil boundaries are largely respected
- The village of Drumcondra can be brought together in one ward
- The village of Finglas is brought together in one ward
- The current council offices remain in the centre of the wards
- The proposed wards would align reasonably well with HSE districts and services
- The proposed wards would align well with the Garda districts and Garda stations.
- the ward layouts would comply with the requirements for the number of councillors per population

### **Possible Variations to the above recommendations:**

#### **Botanic A DED**

The Botanic A DED is now in the new Dublin Central Dáil constituency, so should probably not remain in the Ballymun-Whitehall ward. But the DED has connections with Glasnevin, Drumcondra and Phibsborough, so it could be connected to the Ballymun-Whitehall ward, a Drumcondra Ward, or a Phibsborough Ward. If the DED was added to the proposed Ballymun-Whitehall ward, the ward could increase in size to 6 seats, or stay at five seats, and either way it would remain within the terms of reference for the number of councillors per head of population for Dublin City. This DED could provide flexibility for the committee in coming up with the layout of the wards, as it could reasonably go in any of three wards.

#### **Phoenix Park DED**

In my proposed layout, Phoenix Park would remain in Cabra Finglas, but it could also be included in a Dublin Central ward, and would still allow seven seats in the Cabra-Finglas ward. Again this may provide some flexibility for the committee in drafting the ward boundaries.



## **Inclusion of Finglas North C and Ballygall A in the proposed Ballymun-Whitehall Ward**

The addition of Finglas North C and Ballygall A into the proposed Ballymun-Whitehall ward could unify the village of Finglas into the Ballymun-Whitehall ward. But the downside is that Finglas village would be cut off from its natural hinterland of Finglas West and Finglas South, so I would recommend that both of those DEDs be included in the Finglas-Cabra ward.

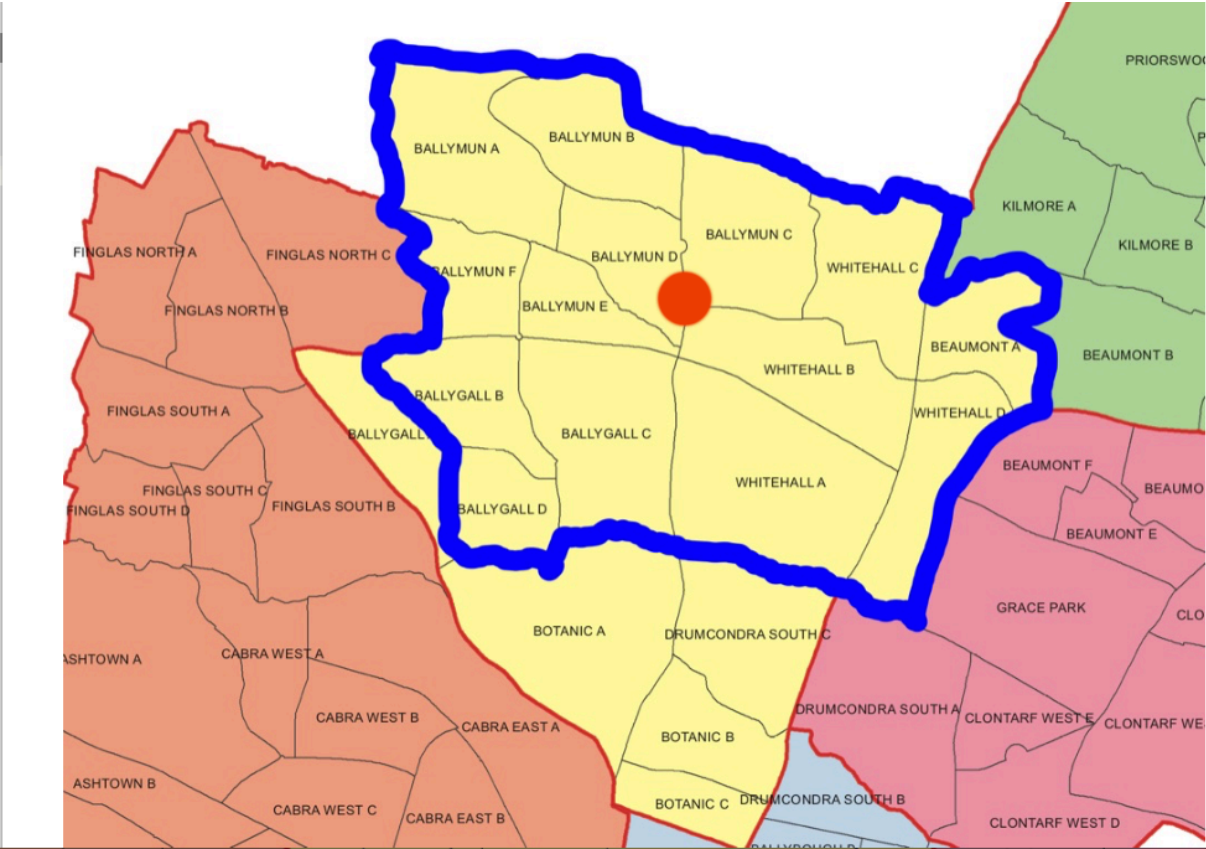
## **Why is Beaumont A included in the proposed Ballymun-Whitehall ward?**

There are six Beaumont DEDs and a case could be made to unite all six into one ward to bring Beaumont together. But there is no village centre of Beaumont, and the area that is considered Beaumont is ill-defined. I grew up in the Beaumont A DED, and most people considered themselves to be part of Whitehall. People generally associated with the Whitehall church and most children went to school in Larkhill and to secondary schools in the Whitehall area. For this reason Beaumont A is a more natural fit into a Whitehall ward than a Beaumont ward. In addition the DED is in the Dublin North West Dáil constituency and has been grouped together with the Whitehall DEDs for over 10 years. This DED should stay in the proposed Ballymun-Whitehall ward.

## **Ballymun and Whitehall are a good fit together**

The Ballymun and Whitehall DEDs have been grouped together in a ward for most of the last 20 years, except for 2009-2014. The 2009-2014 ward layouts did not work very well. Firstly the Ballymun C DED is half in Whitehall and half in Ballymun, so having Whitehall and Ballymun in the one ward helps. In addition the city council civic centre is located within the Ballymun C DED, but is 200m from Whitehall B. It would make no sense for residents of Whitehall B to have to trek to Coolock for the council services instead of a five minute walk to the Civic Centre in Ballymun. Splitting Whitehall from Ballymun and connecting Whitehall with Drumcondra, or Whitehall with Artane would break the Dáil boundaries, and go against the terms of reference of the committee.

Finally keeping Whitehall and Ballymun together in the one ward would help align local services such as the North West Area Partnership, the Health services and Garda Divisions. The City Council offices, the main Garda Station and the Primary Health Care Centre are all located beside each other on the Main Street in Ballymun. This location is indicated on the next map, and shows that these services would be central to the Ballymun-Whitehall Ward.



Location of Dublin City Council offices, Garda station, Primary Health care centre in the centre of the proposed Ballymun-Whitehall ward.