

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is David Boyle [REDACTED] and I would like to make a submission to the Boundary Commission Review that is currently taking place for Cork City Council.

I would like to bring the committee's attention to the terms of reference set out by this committee in relation to this process. In particular, I would point the committee's attention to condition no. 5 which states that, "local areas should be devised, as far as possible, around urban villages or have a neighborhood focal point, taking due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representative roles of elected members".

I would like to draw the committee's attention to a recent decision that was made by a past committee in relation to the town of Carrigaline, Co. Cork. Carrigaline was a town that was literally split down the middle a number of years ago, with the south and north side of the town separated into two different elected areas. The only reason that I can see for this decision was that the committee gave no consideration to, devising around urban villages, neighborhood focal points. They took no account of community identity and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of governance.

Instead the committee looked at this community as a series of data points, contained within an equation that needed to be solved. The result of this approach was the division of a close knit community and the arbitrary drawing of a line down a map resulting in one of the most ill thought out decisions in recent local government history.

It is critical that this committee does not make the same mistake when considering the new local areas. It is critical that the committee look at villages and urban centers and keeps them together in one local area. Breaking up communities that have been together for many decades would be an unforgivable mistake. Reuniting communities that have been separated by the city/county boundary into a cohesive area needs to be the priority. Sprawling urban wards with areas of differing needs is not the optimum outcome. For local government to work properly there needs to be a logical structure to the elected areas, with local representatives representing the needs of the local area. People who know and understand the needs of these areas.

I hope that the committee will consider these points that I have made when making their decision.

Kind regards,

David Boyle