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Rathdrum Development Association


Co. Wicklow
12th February 2018

Submission to Local Area Boundary Commission,

From, Rathdrum Development Association

Re; Arklow Electoral Area, Wicklow County Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to ask you in the most emphatic manner not to change the Arklow Electoral Area as part of your deliberations into the local area boundaries with regard to elections to Wicklow County Council.

Rathdrum currently forms part of the Arklow Electoral Area and is a six seat constituency which contains Arklow and a large rural area in conjunction with our town. Since becoming part of the Arklow Municipal district we as a community group have become a central part of the local government process in the district and have been well served by local representatives and Council officials.

Our community in Rathdrum has easy and frequent access to all Council functions and responsibilities and have built close working relationships with senior officials in Arklow Municipal District including Engineers which have allowed strategic relationships and plans to be put in place for the future of our town as part of Arklow Municipal District. To have to re-start all these relationships would be disastrous for the local government reform process and would indeed make a mockery of the system

The population of the Arklow Municipal District as it is currently constructed is ideally suited with regard to the distribution of the six seats and any changes would impact on all the adjoining local electoral areas and their districts which are functioning well. Given that there is no increase in the overall seat allocation and with population increases being consistent, any change to the district may give rise to accusations of gerrymandering which in itself would be contrary to the aims of the Independent Boundary Commission.

The community in Rathdrum have integrated extremely well into the Arklow Municipal District and indeed have drawn up substantial development plans which will see the town and its rural hinterland grow in a sustainable manner over the next several years. Key to that resurgence in the area has been our inclusion in the Arklow area.

We strongly urge you therefore to refrain from making unnecessary and unwanted changes to the Arklow Municipal District until such time as there is evidence that such a redraw is necessary.

Kind Regards


May Byrne

Secretary, Rathdrum Development Association