

Re: Boundary Submission

Much of the land the subject of the current boundary review comprised part of the Civil Parish of Kilculliheen which lands for centuries were in the Liberties of the County of the City of Waterford.

It was only subsequent to the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 that such lands were transferred from the City of Waterford to the administrative County of Kilkenny. These lands, accordingly, have for less than 120 years been in Kilkenny though for centuries before they were lands of Waterford City.

1955 was, I understand, the last time the City Boundary was extended to restore a small part of those lands to the City.

That boundary extension arose because in the 1930's Waterford Corporation built Ard Mhuire housing estate part of which was built in County Kilkenny and further housing in Rockenham housing estate was proposed. That boundary extension made sense socially, democratically and economically. However, since then proposals to extend the boundary, notwithstanding apparent need therefor, have not been implemented.

Kilkenny County Council have contrary to their administrative remit generally left it to Waterford City Council to build Local Authority housing in the Ferrybank area. Part of Belmont Heights and the Ard Daire (circa 2001) estates being among the houses provided by Waterford City Council.

Kilkenny County Councils lack of investment in the area resulted in this being at the time among the only areas of the country where one Council had to fund and provide houses outside its administrative area because the governing administration (Kilkenny County Council) would not build much needed houses. Indeed, such development was actively opposed by Kilkenny County Council.

See e.g. Irish Times 27/10/1999 which reported that an application by Waterford Corporation for permission to build 99 Local Authority houses in Ferrybank was turned down by Kilkenny County Council. It took a decision of An Bord Pleanála to allow the necessary development to proceed. That article reported "These won't be the first houses Waterford Corporation will own in Kilkenny. It has already built 158 on land purchased in the county 30 years ago".

In 1976 Couth Louths' boundary was extended to include part of County Meath including Local Authority houses built by Drogheda Borough Council in County Meath. The houses in the area under review built by Waterford City Council and prior



by Waterford Corporation should now be brought within part of Waterford Local Authority remit.

Kilkenny County Council for years failed to develop the area adequately and/or provide services and/or provide recreational facilities. It would appear Kilkenny County Council were not interested in funding or developing lands in the environs of Waterford City. The effects of their neither progressing necessary development nor allowing the neighbouring Local Authority to develop those lands has hindered the proper planning and development and economic wellbeing of the general area.

Some development that has been permitted by Kilkenny County Council appears not to be sustainable development. Granting of Planning Permission for the seemingly way too large Ferrybank Shopping Centre and around the same time granting permission for another shopping centre at Abbey Park the shops in which also remain unopened have resulted in huge losses some of which may well have fallen to the tax payer.

Kilkenny County Council in December 2005 stated that their first objection to then proposed boundary extension was that the extension was not required to provide land for future development. This ignored that the Local Authority administering an urban area should be able to progress development in a balanced way and not be confined to lopsided development. Dublin City Council would not be confined to develop only on one side of the river, why should Waterford be so confined?

To be able to attract foreign and other investment and development Waterford City must be in a position to demonstrate that the urban area and its suburbs are a well managed and cohesive unit hence the Ferrybank suburb area should be included within the Waterford Local Authority area.

It is contended by some that the Port of Waterford will be lost by Kilkenny but surely the Port of Waterford should be within the Waterford urban administrative area. Waterford is a port city and one Local Authority should administer the environs of the original port as well as the new port.

The Fire Service in the area under review is provided by Waterford Council. Why? Because it makes sense. A house would have burned down by the time a fire engine came from Kilkenny. The Local Authority control should be in the hands of the authority that can best serve the area.

A headline and article in the Munster Express some years ago stated that Abbey Park residents had voted willingness to secede from County Kilkenny as they were frustrated with the lack of assistance from Kilkenny County Council in estate maintenance.





Many residents in the area under review would readily approve of the boundary extension. See e.g Munster Express 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 article regarding a survey carried out in 2005.

A standardised online letter prepared by Kilkenny Chamber of the fill in name and address and sign type (Boundary Letter Version 5) states at paragraph 6 that any proposal to alter the boundary will split religious parishes and sporting catchments. It states "a boundary extension of Waterford City and County into County Kilkenny would mean that part of the Diocese of Ossory would be in Munster instead of Leinster". The writer thereof seems unaware that already the existing Ferrybank Catholic Parish (which was part of Slieverue Parish until that parish area was reviewed and split into two parishes) is all in the Diocese of Ossory although part of Ferrybank is in Waterford/Munster.

A main reason often raised against the boundary extension is "hurling". It is not about GAA games in their entirety (i.e. men's and ladies football, hurling, camogie, rounders, handball) but about one of the Gaelic Games sports. If the boundary adjustment is thought to be such a problem request could be made by those concerned to amend GAA Rules to provide that in an area the subject of a county boundary adjustment a player in that area may play for whichever of those two counties he or she chooses.

People who might have no interest in one particular sport should not be affected in the economic, social and recreational development of their area solely because some people do not want to contemplate some potential change in their sports administrative area.

Soccer clubs from Piltown, Kilmacow, Grannagh and Mooncoin all play in the Waterford Junior League without in any way losing their Kilkenny identity and heritage.

The cogent arguments given by the then Kilkenny Borough Council in their applications for a boundary extension of their Borough Councils remit into part of the area of Kilkenny County Council apply even more readily to the argument for extension of Waterford boundary into the area now under consideration. Kilkenny Borough Council members contended for extension of their area on a number of occasions and the Commission should obtain copy of the Kilkenny Borough Council documentation in reference.

Having grown up in County Kilkenny, later moving to Ferrybank and now living in Waterford I have seen the effects on the Ferrybank area of the dead hand of Kilkenny Local Authority inaction. One can be proud of Kilkenny and Waterford, it is not necessarily one or the other as regards heritage.



Denying the boundary extension does not help the people living within the review area in any way and but so denying would hinder the greater good of the wider area and region and efficient, effective and convenient local government which would be achieved by extending the local authority boundary.

