

James Walsh,
~~James Walsh, Waterford, Co. Waterford,~~
~~Waterford,~~
The Rower,
Co. Kilkenny.

9th of January 2016

The Secretariat, Waterford Boundary Review,
c/o Kilkenny County Council,
County Hall,
John Street,
Kilkenny.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the proposed boundary change between County Waterford and County Kilkenny. I am very concerned and annoyed at the proposed change.

I have a number of comments to make about this proposed boundary change.

- 1.) The thousands of people affected are Kilkenny people and it is very unjust and immoral to try to 'rebrand' them as Waterford people with one stroke of a pen. These people have been living in Kilkenny for generations; their whole identity is bound up in the feeling of pride that comes from being a Kilkenny man or woman. This boundary extension idea was previously proposed ten years ago and the people of South Kilkenny have been wondering ever since when this proposed annexation of their land would be resurrected. If the land and people, of south Kilkenny, are to be incorporated into a Greater Waterford, shouldn't the very people affected have some say in the matter? I thought we lived in a democracy after all? Isn't the right to self-determination one of the very things our fore fathers fought for 100 years ago this year? This should be put to a vote to see where the affected people want to live. If the majority wants to live in Waterford, then there can be no objection to the change. If however the majority wants to remain in Kilkenny, then the idea must be binned once and for all (and not picked up and dusted off every ten years or so).
- 2.) The economic impact to Kilkenny County will be severe. In excess of €17million will be lost to county Kilkenny if the proposed change goes ahead. The port of Belview and the new Glanbia plant, for example are a huge source of revenue for Kilkenny. It is very wrong to take this developed land away from Kilkenny now after they have developed it so well. Why should Kilkenny county council spend millions developing an area if the threat of this developed land being taken away from them is going to arise every ten years or so?
- 3.) There is no good reason for this change. Waterford County and city can (and are) cooperate and work with Kilkenny county council to develop the north bank of the river suir and the south Kilkenny region. The areas affected are being developed quite well at present.

There are plenty of examples of two different neighbouring jurisdictions' cooperating together; New York City, for example, borders the state of New Jersey. At no time has there been any suggestion that large tracts of New Jersey land and people should be taken over by New York. Instead the two administrations work together for the common good. There are numerous other examples such as the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, in Minnesota.

A famous international example would be between El Paso, Texas and Juárez, Mexico. There is absolutely no good reason why a boundary should halt or curtail the development of a city. If the will is there, it can be done.

In summary I think this proposed boundary extension is very wrong, and unnecessary, on a number of levels. The main reason however is the enormous impact it will have on the Kilkenny communities affected. They will see their identity changed overnight and will suffer the most from this immoral proposed takeover. At the very least the people affected by this change should be asked their opinion on this huge change.

Yours Faithfully,

James Walsh


