

Waterford Boundary Committee,
C/o The Secretariat,
Waterford Boundary Review,
Waterford City & County Council,
City Hall,
The Mall,
Waterford.

12-January-2016

COUNTRYSTYLE FOODS LTD.

GRANNAGH, KILMACOW, Co. KILKENNY
TEL: 051 876760 / 878263 FAX 051-854146
Email: info@countrystylefoods.ie

Dear Sir,

Re Proposed Waterford City Boundary Extension

I wish to put on record my opposition to the proposed boundary extension of Waterford City in to South Kilkenny.

From my commercial position the proposed boundary extension will not improve the capability of Waterford to become the gateway capital of the South East.

In fact if the boundary extension is forced through the new artificial boundary will act as a barrier to co-operation and expansion.

In my view it is entirely right for Waterford to seek to become the effective commercial capital of the South East but this does not necessarily mean that the City limits have to be extended.

I base my objection on a number of grounds;

Is There a Need for the Extension ?

I understand that the current existing boundaries of Waterford City contain a large % of land zoned agricultural and that there is sufficient land zoned already to accommodate the projected population growth to 2021 and beyond.

If the extension is granted the population density of Waterford would be 4 times less than other gateway cities – **too much land not enough people!**

The case has not been made as to why Waterford City requires the extension sought.

Economic Co-operation

The best way for Waterford City to develop to it's full potential is to work in co-operation with the other neighbouring counties – Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford to maximise the assets of the region.

I believe that the 4 counties local councils and corporations should develop a partnership approach and work on a number of large regional assets to maximise their potential – Waterford Institute of Technology & Waterford Regional Hospital and Belview Port serve all the counties of the South East.

All local councils should engage to bring more political attention to these assets and their requirements and to look for more state support for them.

If the boundary extension is granted then the new boundary will be a rigid division between the 2 counties.

I would imagine that Kilkenny County Council would feel less urgency to assist in developing the area and would focus their efforts further to developing links with Dublin institutions.

It is not clear to me how the boundary extension would help in establishing a good co-operative spirit between the 2 counties. **Short term gain for Waterford but long term loss to the area.**

Financial Loss

If the boundary extension goes ahead then Kilkenny County Council will face serious losses of commercial rates and property tax.

Kilkenny County Council's analysis of the financial effects of the boundary extension is that Kilkenny will suffer financial loss and that commercial rates will increase but also that the rates in the Waterford City area would also increase. **A real lose, lose scenario for commercial businesses in the area.**

Services

If the boundary extension is permitted will the services to commercial businesses and to the general population be improved?

There is no indication or explanation from Waterford City & County Council as to how services will be improved.

Currently the areas involved are well served by Kilkenny County Council and we do not lack for representation or response to our public services – fire, road, housing, planning, library etc etc.

The boundary extension will not improve services.

Identity

Kilkenny County and its people have a unique and clear social, cultural and sporting identity. The proposed transfer of the second largest urban area in Kilkenny in to Waterford will create a huge disturbance to this identity.

It is important to state that the current boundary marks a provincial as well as a county boundary and that there is close to 1,000 years of cultural differentiation between counties Kilkenny and Waterford.

No cultural, social or sporting identity is improved by the extension – in fact large damage and distress will be caused if the extension goes ahead.

In summary I do not feel that the requirement for the extension has been proven, that no economic advantage will be gained by the extension, that co-operation between the counties of the South East will be damaged and that there is no case for the extension to proceed.

Yours sincerely,



Rory Williams PCA

Managing Director

Countrystyle Foods Ltd

Grannagh

Kilmacow

Co Kilkenny

rwilliams@countrystylefoods.ie

