

**From:** Conan Power [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2016 20:17  
**To:** Boundary Review  
**Subject:** Submission regarding Boundary Review

Dear Sirs,

I feel I may be in the minority but, as a resident in the "Area of Interest", I'd like to voice my full support and that of my family, **IN FAVOUR** of the proposed boundary changes. I live in the townland of Kilculliheen, approx. 1 km from the Waterford county line. For the purposes of local authority services, jury duty, voting, school catchment etc., I am in Co. Kilkenny. However, I am neither from Kilkenny or Waterford, so feel my neutral perspective can add something to the debate.

Please consider the following points when making your decision :

- The proximity alone of Waterford to the "Area of Interest" points to it being good sense to administer the area from Waterford, as opposed to Kilkenny city, over 50km away. The county boundary goes through people's living rooms for goodness sake ! Opposite sides of some streets are in different counties ...
- **However, this is a local government review** - *not* a review of the county boundary, nor is it a sporting, religious, provincial or otherwise review. The 'Terms of Reference' on your website make this clear. However, the majority (if not all) of the arguments I have heard *against* the proposal have been based on cultural, sporting or other criteria not under review. The topic under review is the administrative remit of Waterford City & County Council as a local authority, not of Kilkenny and Waterford's physical county border. If the changes go ahead, nobody in the area concerned will be forced to '*become*' a Waterford person, or move provinces and so on. This needs to be made clear.
- From my point of view, the services and investment in this part of south Co. Kilkenny are lacking. For all intents and purposes, we live, work, shop, worship and play in Waterford City as we are simply in it's natural hinterland. Ferrybank is extremely limited in terms of access to facilities, which in part is down to a lack of proper investment by Kilkenny County Council. One need only look at a map of the city of Waterford and the northern bank of the Suir will stand out, almost as bare as it was 100 years ago.
- I know some of the criteria, from your report to the Minister must centre on the costs and benefits (one way or another) of the proposal, but I'd like to tell you about what its like to live at the extreme edge of one geographic county, while doing everything else in another ...
  - Local Representation - we vote in the constituency of Carlow / Kilkenny which often means the candidates are from 50-60km away and cannot influence developments where we work, play, shop etc. I have never had a visit from a general election candidate in the Carlow / Kilkenny constituency either. Being selected for jury service, for example, means a 2 hour round trip to Kilkenny city, when Waterford's courthouse is 10 minutes away. Administratively, it doesn't make sense.
  - Shopping & the economy - apart from ALDI, and a few garages/corner stores, there are no shopping opportunities in the area of interest. It is 5 minutes by car into Waterford city and that is simply the easiest thing to do. There are 2 large, empty and never opened shopping centres in the Co.Kilkenny area of Ferrybank (that will remain closed as far as anyone can see).

- Estate Management - few estates in the area of interest have been taken in charge by the Kilkenny Council, which means getting access to local authority services is difficult. The Council does not operate a refuse service in rural areas and we fall into this category where the only option is expensive private services. Our water, for example, is of very poor quality and regular changes of appliance are necessary. 300 yards down the road, the water supply comes from a different, non-hard source. Planning permission was liberally granted throughout the boom era, meaning that on our road alone, there are 3 ghost estates, in among older, completed estates. Better and more efficient delivery of Council services should and could happen from nearby depots in Waterford, which is closer e.g Civic Amenity sites, recycling centres, emergency planning, fire services etc).
- Amenities - Look at the Ferrybank Area Plan 2009 from Kilkenny Council. [Link here](#). I cannot see anything mentioned in the plan as having come to pass. This plan was recently extended until 2020. I draw your specific attention to any point labelled RE or RE1, noting that nothing has been done regarding same (retail centres). Similarly, the map is dotted with well meaning OS1s and 2s (provision of parks and playgrounds) and do we have any? We drive to the People's Park in Waterford city as its the nearest. There are no public playgrounds provided by Council in Ferrybank. There has been talks of it for a few years and apparently land has been acquired but as of yet there isn't anything. The only space for recreation is a small parish centre in need of refurbishment. The strength of Ferrybank lies with its many wonderful community organisations. They need to be looked after by their local authority.
- Investment - the south Kilkenny/north Waterford area has seen a huge increase in the amount of housing estates and associated population increase, but without the investment in the infrastructure required for same. Roads are not in a good shape, several estates lie empty, water etc. and the other points I've mentioned, are simply lacking. One gets the feeling that the powers that be in Kilkenny city are not too worried about investment in the area - let Waterford worry about them?

A boundary change like this must come down to both economic and administrative sense - I fail to see how people's identities will be affected by where they pay charges or tax, or report potholes to.

Finally, if I could point out just 2 statements from the government's comprehensive "Action Programme for Effective Local Government, [Putting People First](#)", Chapter 6, p.47 where it states that there should be no "duplicate administrative or organisational overhead" with "a single county-wide executive or operational structure" in place. At present, we fall between 2 stools. Furthermore, section 3.3.6, p.27 states "Strengthening the capacity of local government to promote economic and social development is a key objective in proposals for local authority unification being implemented in Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford, with particular emphasis on enabling the gateway centres of Limerick and **Waterford** to be dynamic generators of growth." I feel that should the "area of interest" come under the remit of Waterford City & County Council, all people of the area will so benefit, as it can only boost growth as the plan outlines, through much needed investment and other critical infrastructural improvements.

Is mise,

Conan Power and family  
Kilculliheen  
via Waterford

PS: If I don't put 'via Waterford' on my address, the post takes longer !