

From: Kay Sheehy
Sent: 14 January 2016 17:27
To: Boundary Review
Subject: Waterford/Kilkenny Boundary review

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Resident of Kilkenny

My objections to the redrawing of the boundary in Ferrybank area are arising from the needs of Kilkenny county as a whole.

It seems to me that the proposal put forward for this change is to advance the development of Waterford city and provide more land for housing and industrial and commercial development. However when one looks at the size and structure of each county it is clear that Waterford is a much bigger entity with a higher population than Kilkenny.

Kilkenny is a county with one major town/city within its boundaries while Waterford has many more sizeable towns. For example if one looks at the five biggest urban areas in each county and compares the population in each of the five as follows....(figures taken from the 2011 census)

Populations

Waterford	Kilkenny
Waterford County. 113,795	Kilkenny Co. 95,419
City 46,732	City 24,423
Tramore 10,519	Callan 2,330
Dungarvan 9,427	Thomastown 2,273

Dunhill 1559 Castlecomer 1456

Lismore 1369 Ballyragget 1089

We can see a major difference in size.

It is my opinion that taking a large chunk of our county and adding it to Waterford will substantially reduce the ability of Kilkenny county as a whole to develop and progress in the future. There seems to be no advantage to Kilkenny in this transfer of 5,000 of the residents of our county and a large chunk of valuable land mass to an already well endowed Waterford. It also seems that Waterford and Kilkenny councils have been managing fairly well to get things done in the area as it stands and if there are problems it is up to them both to work at sorting these out without reducing our county both in size and population to benefit our neighbour. And as for the area objectors come from,,,it doesn't really matter as a result of the loss of income to the county all areas may be affected so even Ballyragget and Johnstown would feel the pinch.

I grew up in New Ross where competition between the two harbour areas had caused problems in the past with Waterford managing in the middle ages to have concessions granted by King John withdrawn by Henry3 and Edward 1 to protect Waterford port. This was a big coup by Waterford at the time and is commemorated by them in the Great Charter Roll of Waterford made in 1373.

This just goes to show that Waterford always looked out for its own advantage and to the devil with anyone else!

Sincerely,

Kay Sheehy

A short historic note from a Waterford web site which indicates a certain level of triumphalism!

“Dispute with the neighbouring port of New Ross

Throughout the Middle Ages Waterford was a royal city and the control of the wine trade was critical to its economic success. Waterford claimed a monopoly on the import of wine in south-east Ireland. However this monopoly was challenged by the nearby port of New Ross following its foundation in 1207 and this resulted in the longest trade dispute in Irish history. The dispute between the two ports at times degenerated into open warfare and did not finally end until 1518 when a force of Waterford merchants accompanied by foreign mercenaries attacked New Ross that year, sacked the town and confiscated their civic mace. This mace is still in Waterford and is displayed alongside the charter roll.

This dispute became particularly intense in the 14th century, especially in the bleak years of economic depression following the arrival of the Black Death in Ireland in 1349. The Black Death devastated all of Europe and in cities like Waterford up to a third of the population was wiped out leading to a huge decline in trade.

It was in this climate of severe economic depression that Waterford City Council appealed directly to King Edward III in order to secure its position as the premier port in the region and thus guarantee its wine monopoly. This charter roll was central to this appeal to the king.”

