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Sent: 17 November 2015 13:51
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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Padraig O Griofa)

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Area in which you reside. Specific addresses are not needed. Waterford city

Question 1 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the retention or creation of employment and the general economic performance of the area? The area within the new Ring road is in all but name Waterford but is limited by the existing dual governance of the two Councils, employment efforts would be helped if one Council had control over planning services etc, for the very obvious reasons of a potential employer would have to deal with one statutory body only, and because Waterford would be gaining rates from the potential employer it would be more aggressive in securing them, than is the case at the moment.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? Neither would be affected if it was done in a way that did not affect County loyalties, let the Kilkenny part stay in Kilkenny , just let Waterford administer it, no GAA or otherwise sensibilities will be effected.

Question 3 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder delivery of services by local government to ensure that the needs of the local community are met now and in the future? This is the most obvious plus for having Waterford City govern the area, it could effortlessly provide local services and does already, and there is the added bonus of the money savings for Central Government by the elimination of the existing double overhead.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? Double overhead of the two councils would be eliminated immediately

Question 5 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the Planning and Development needs, as administered by the local authority, of the community? The white Elephant that is the Ferrybank shopping Centre is a wonderful albeit hugely expensive example why Waterford should govern planning matters in this area, this was granted by Kilkenny County Council as a cynical grab at the Rates of Waterford, it was too big and all objections stated that clearly at the time, but KK planning removed as they are from "down There" bulled ahead and not only left this monstrosity in their wake but denied Ferrybank the supermarket and half a dozen convenience stores they needed then and now.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? This area is a natural hinterland of Waterford and aligns itself and has more affinity for the City than the rural area beyond.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? Kilkenny C Co is removed from the day to day activities of this area, Waterford City is at a disadvantage as it cannot maintain an important entrance to the City to the excellent standards it does the for the rest of its arteries.

It is obvious on the ground the existing boundary is visible because of the differing levels of house keeping.

Bellview is a huge potential employer and will never reach it's potential under the dual mandate of Waterford and Kilkenny because why would one Council work for the others benefit?

Is there anything else you wish to add ? I would stress again this move to bring this area into the remit of Waterford City is sensible and long overdue, the big red herring always rears its head is the GAA, neuter that by allowing Waterford administer the area and accrue all the benefits but let it still be called Kilkenny.

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