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From: Mick Flynn [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2015 11:18
To: [REDACTED]
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Subject: Online Submission : Waterford Boundary Review (Mick Flynn)

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Area in which you reside. Specific addresses are not needed. [REDACTED], Waterford

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? It will allow for cohesive planning across the entire urban area. At present, Kilkenny County Council treats its part of Ferrybank as a separate town, despite half of Ferrybank being within the city boundary, and despite the fact that these suburban areas would not exist were it not for overspill from the city. Such planning will cut out mistakes such as the Ferrybank shopping centre, which had (and still has) the potential to suck shopping footfall away from the city centre, thus undermining the investment in tourist and retail activity there, which already provides growing employment.

Question 2 How might the alteration of the boundary help or hinder the identity or cohesion of local communities in the area? A large number of Ferrybank residents have simply moved from somewhere else in Waterford city, so this would just bring them back into the city's ambit. Those who identify more strongly with Kilkenny are not going to be hindered from doing so, no more than a Kilkenny person who happens to move south of the river suffers any loss of identity. Finally, there are many immigrants in the area who have no county affiliation, and who come from countries where cities routinely administer the entire urban area and hinterland.

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? It seems to make sense for services in Ferrybank to be provided directly from the adjacent urban area rather than from costly satellite offices of Kilkenny County Council, whose headquarters are 30 miles away. Some services don't even need to be provided in a town of 6,000 people when they are available two miles away on the other side of Rice Bridge.

Question 4 How might alteration of the administrative boundary help or hinder the need to maximise efficiency and value for money in local government? The existence of a single Waterford council undermines this somewhat. Urban and rural councils provide a different range of services, which is why we have city councils and county councils. Abolishing Waterford City Council was a blunder, and this should be reversed in the future. Such a city council could concentrate on the needs of the entire urban area and leave the county councils to manage the rural areas nearby. Doing "one thing right" in this way can maximise efficiency.

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? Ferrybank could now be planned properly as a suburb, just like Ardkeen or Lisduggan, rather than the pretence that it's a town that stands on its own.

Question 6 How might alteration of the boundary help or hinder the delivery of effective and accountable democratic representation? The people of Ferrybank for the most part work, shop and socialise in Waterford city. However they don't have any input into who

represents the city at local or national level. Instead they are represented by politicians who tend to fall into three categories: a) only interested in Kilkenny city, b) based 50 miles away in Carlow, or c) opposed to any development of regional services in Waterford that they see as undermining Kilkenny's claim to be the "regional capital". Such representatives (when they campaign for investment in UHW to be diverted to St Luke's for example) actually act against the interests of Ferrybank residents, so there is no doubt that the boundary alteration would be a positive in this category.

Question 7 What strengths or weaknesses do you see in current local authority administrative boundary arrangements in the area? The merged Waterford council was a blunder. Now, instead of our local representatives being able to concentrate on the city, which is the economic engine of the south east, they have to concern themselves with issues as far away as Youghal and Clonmel. Meanwhile, parts of Ferrybank, visible from City Hall, are themselves the concern of representatives who sit in council chambers 30 miles away. This is a recipe for wastefulness. The city should get its own local authority, just as Galway has, and it should cover the entire urban area (and perhaps also Tramore).

Is there anything else you wish to add ? I would like to counter some of the objections being made to this proposed extension:

- Land grab: no land is changing hand. Nobody is going to be pushed "off their land". Boundary changes like this are routine in other countries.
- GAA/sporting tradition: the GAA doesn't have to change anything in its setup. For example, traditional counties such as Antrim and Tyrone don't exist any more for administrative purposes, but there has never been any suggestion that they should abandon these traditional counties. South of the border, Dublin is administered as four authorities, but it plays as a single county in GAA. The GAA issue is a red herring therefore.

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