

18.002



Secretary
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees
Room 1.67
Custom House
Dublin 1

**SUBMISSION TO COMMITTEE NO 2 IN RESPECT OF
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

Dear Secretary to Committee No 2

I wish to make a submission in respect of the boundaries of South Dublin County Council electoral areas.

South Dublin County Council since its inception in 1994 has contained 5 to 6 Local Electoral Areas (LEAs). In the 2013 the membership of the council was increased for the first time from 26 members to 40.

The 2018 boundary committee is limited to creating LEAs of between 5 and 7 members. At the very least this will require changes to the existing 8 seat Clondalkin and Lucan LEAs.

In respect of the Firhouse area (at present split between two EAs) terms of reference of the 2018 Boundary Committee need to be applied:

"Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around urban villages or have a neighbourhood focal point (or points), taking due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members"

There is a need to correct the 2013 boundary committee's mistake in respect of Firhouse (3 EDs population of 23949) which was divided in a totally illogical and harmful manner as the 2013 committee's terms of reference prohibited 5 seat EAs. Now that this prohibition is gone there needs to be a reconfiguration of the 12 seats between the Rathfarnham, Templeogue and Firhouse areas to take *"due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members"*.

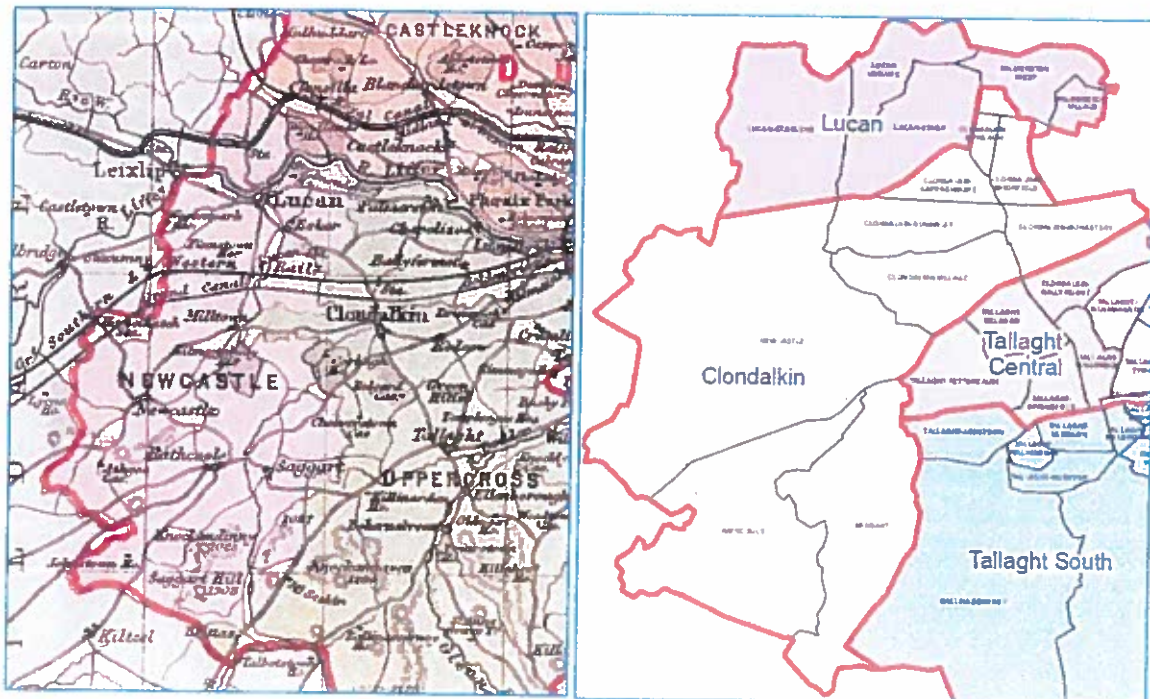
CLONDALKIN, LUCAN & NEWCASTLE

There are 16 seats allocated to the existing Clondalkin and Lucan EAs. Due to the prohibition on LEAs larger than 7 members this means they can no longer be divided into two 8 seat EAs. The boundary committee has to address the following

- Lucan like Tallaght to the south is too big to be contained within one LEA. Henceforth there will need to be two Lucan LEAs as is the case in Tallaght
- The division in 3 of the Lucan and Clondalkin area will require two 5 seat LEAs and one 6 seat LEA
- The Lucan-Esker Electoral Division is one of the largest in the state with a population of over 32000 (this alone would equate to 4.5 council seats) and will have to be divided between the two new Lucan EAs
- The population of all the Clondalkin EDs (44844) as one LEA is the exact amount needed for a 6 seat LEA

The creation of a third LEA in Clondalkin and Lucan should be based on the historic Barony of Newcastle. Below is a map of the Barony of Newcastle compared with the modern Clondalkin and Lucan EAs.

HISTORIC BARONY OF NEWCASTLE & MODERN EA BOUNDARIES



The naming of two new 5 seat Lucan EAs should reflect the villages within each – Lucan-Newcastle and Lucan-Palmerstown.

LUCAN – NEWCASTLE

| DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISION | POP |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| RATHCOOLE | 5009 |
| NEWCASTLE | 4257 |
| LUCAN ST HELENS | 10658 |
| LUCAN HEIGHTS | 5196 |
| TOTAL | 25120 |

LUCAN-PALMERSTOWN

| DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISION | POP |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| PALMERSTOWN WEST | 7521 |
| PALMERSTOWN VILLAGE | 3625 |
| TOTAL | 11146 |

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| LUCAN ESKER ED | 32236 |
|----------------|-------|

- "Lucan-Newcastle" EDs equate to 3.6 council seats
- "Lucan-Palmerstown" EDs equate to 1.6 council seats
- The Lucan-Esker ED alone equates to 4.6 council seats

The only way to create two 5 seat Lucan LEAs is to split the Lucan-Esker ED on an approximately 2:1 basis. The most significant roadway infrastructure running through the middle of the Lucan-Esker ED is the Outer Ring Road (R136). This is a relatively new road (built 10-12 years ago) and links Junction 2 on the N7 and Junction 3 on the N4.

The committee should examine the possibility of using the Outer Ring Road as the boundary between the new Electoral Areas.

CLONDALKIN EA = 6 SEATS

| DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISION | POP |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| CLONDALKIN MONESTARY | 11316 |
| CLONDALKIN VILLAGE | 9152 |
| CLONDALKIN DUNAWLEY | 11323 |
| CLONDALKIN CAPPAGHMORE | 2581 |
| CLONDALKIN MOOREFIELD | 6376 |
| CLONDALKIN ROWLAGH | 4096 |
| TOTAL | 44844 |

FIRHOUSE PROBLEM

The 2013 Boundary Committee had tried in as far as possible to design around the urban villages of Rathfarnham and Templeogue two 6 seat LEAs. However the configuration of the LEAs was disastrous in respect of *"taking due account of local and community identities and linkages"* in the adjacent neighbourhoods of Firhouse and Knocklyon.

The DED boundaries in Firhouse and Knocklyon (drawn over 30 years ago prior to the construction of the M50) follow roads that have since been re-aligned and in a number of cases built upon.

The terms of reference of the 2013 Boundary Committee prohibited LEAs smaller than 6 members. In an effort to create two 6 seat wards the 2013 committee divided the communities of Firhouse and Knocklyon in a totally illogical way to bring Templeogue and Rathfarnham up to six seat LEAs.

This resulted in the Firhouse area having no locally based representation after the 2014 local elections.

RESPECTING IDENTITIES AND VILLAGES

Now that the prohibition on 5 seat EAs has been removed the opportunity exists to respect the identities of Rathfarnham, Templeogue and Firhouse with a new configuration based on a 5 seat and 7 seat EAs.

The solution to this problem is a 7 seat and 5 seat EAs. This solution would respect community identities and ensure

- All 6 Rathfarnham EDs would be in the one Electoral Area
- All 3 Firhouse EDs along with Bohernabreena would be in the one Electoral Area
- All the Templeogue EDs would be in the one Electoral Area

| LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA | POP | SEATS |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| RATHFARNHAM-TEMPLEOGUE | 47492 | 6.9 |
| FIRHOUSE | 34202 | 4.9 |

However the above can only be achieved by not putting Rathfarnham and Templeogue in two different EAs. These two urban villages can share the same 7 seat EA (as they did from 1999 to 2009). All of the above would be within the terms of reference of the 2018 Boundary Committee:

"Local electoral areas should be designed, as far as possible, around urban villages or have a neighbourhood focal point (or points), taking due account of local and community identities and linkages and the need to facilitate the effectiveness of the governance and representational roles of elected members"

7 SEAT RATHFARNHAM TEMPLEOGUE

| DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISION | POP |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| RATHFARNHAM VILLAGE | 3099 |
| RATHFARNHAM HERMITAGE | 4602 |
| RATHFARNHAM ST ENDA | 3877 |
| RATHFARNHAM BUTTERFIELD | 3288 |
| RATHFARNHAM BALLYROAN | 2612 |
| BALLYBODEN | 5028 |
| TEMPLEOGUE KIMMAGE MANOR | 4856 |
| TEMPLEOGUE VILLAGE | 2074 |
| TEMPLEOGUE CYPRESS | 2714 |
| TEMPLEOGUE ORWELL | 2056 |
| TEMPLEOGUE OSPREY | 2246 |
| TEMPLEOGUE LIMEKILN | 3449 |
| TERENURE ST JAMES | 2568 |
| TERENURE CHERRYFIELD | 2151 |
| TERENURE GREENTREES | 2872 |
| TOTAL | 47492 |

5 SEAT FIRHOUSE

| DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISION | POP |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| BOHERNABREENA | 4496 |
| FIRHOUSE VILLAGE | 12214 |
| FIRHOUSE BALLYCULLEN | 8230 |
| FIRHOUSE KNOCKLYON | 3505 |
| EDMONDSTOWN | 5757 |
| TOTAL | 34202 |

“TERENURE” NAME

Despite Terenure Village and most of its environs being in the Dublin City local authority, the name “Terenure” keeps being applied to electoral areas in the Templeogue and Walkinstown areas in SDCC. In the interests of better identification and naming could the 2018 boundary committee please end this practice.

CONCLUSSION

The problem with the 2013 committee was their overzealous commitment to adhering to DEDs even when they bore little resemblance to the modern communities in SDCC.

Broadly speaking the 2018 Boundary Committee should have regard to the following natural features and major roads in SDCC as an alternative to DED boundaries:

- The M50
- The Naas Road/N7
- The Lucan By Pass/N4
- The Outer Ring Road (R136)
- The Rivers Camac and Dodder

This would allow the configuration of electoral areas in SDCC with a distribution of seats and population as follows:

| LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA | CLLRS | POPULATION |
|--------------------------|-------|----------------|
| LUCAN - NEWCASTLE | 5 | 34845 (approx) |
| LUCAN - PALMERSTOWN | 5 | 33657 (approx) |
| CLONDALKIN | 6 | 44844 |
| TALLAGHT CENTRAL | 6 | 39119 |
| TALLAGHT SOUTH | 6 | 44201 |
| RATHFARNHAM - TEMPLEOGUE | 7 | 47492 |
| FIRHOUSE | 5 | 34202 |
| TOTAL | 40 | 278767 |

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission

Sincerely

Stephen Nolan
December 2017