

Cllr. EMER HIGGINS

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

17th January 2018

Dear Boundary Committee

In 2013 the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee discriminated against the neighbourhoods of Brittas and Saggart when each of these neighbourhoods was excluded from the Clondalkin Electoral Area.

The communities of Brittas, Saggart, Newcastle and Rathcoole make up the one parish and represent the only rural villages in South Dublin County Council. They share community resources, amenities and demographics. The primary schools in Brittas, Saggart and Newcastle are the main feeder schools for the Rathcoole second level school. More importantly, they share a sense of community something we as a country should be nurturing.

These four villages have moved Local Electoral Area time and time again being separated and reunited at the whim of the boundary commission and census statistics.

The families in these four villages see themselves as part of the one community and I ask the boundary commission to treat them as such.

Under the terms of reference of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee, the committee must consider:

"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"

I respectfully ask the boundary commission to treat the villages of Brittas, Saggart, Newcastle and Rathcoole as one community and redefine the boundary to ensure that these four villages are in the same Local Electoral Area going forward. That is the only way to support sustainable rural communities in South County Dublin and allow community spirit to thrive.

Kind regards,

Emer Higgins

Cllr. Emer Higgins, Fine Gael Lead on South Dublin County Council

Youth and Experience

Cllr Higgins is working closely with Minister Frances Fitzgerald, Derek Keating TD, Cllr Kenneth Egan and Brian Hayes MEP.

FINE GAEAL

