18.339

Submission : Joint Committee from Meath East & Meath West

Current Position:

Area	*Pop.*	*No of Seats*	*Variance*
Ashbourne	*29,178*	*6*	*.2%*
Kells	*32,398*	*7*	*-5%*
Laytown/Bettystown	*33,752*	*7*	*1%*
Navan	34,931	7	-2%
Ratoath	33,590	7	-1.6%
Trim	31,195	6	+6.2%
Totals	**195,044**	**40**	

It was the general view that all areas be left unchanged with the exception of the Kells and Trim Area. The largest difference in variance is with these two areas, -5% and +6.2% respectively.

It is proposed that Grennanstown and Athboy DED be added to Trim (total 3,847) therefore making Trim a 7 seat (35,042)and Kells would be reduced to a 6 seat (28,551). This would bring then closer in line with all other areas. Trim would then have a 2% variance and Kells -2% variance.

Athboy is currently part of the Kells Municipal area which is a large geographical area with a low population density.

The issues and problems of a growth area like Athboy would be specific to its area and is currently out of sync within the Kells Municipal Area.

Athboy currently and historically has close business, farming and community links with Trim.

Like Trim, Athboy is now part of the greater Dublin commuter area of South Meath, challenges in relation to roads, community development etc. are similar to Trim as most of the people travel to work through the area to get to Dublin

It is geographically in close proximity to Trim Town and several of the growing villages of South Meath.

Athboy is now a rapid growth area which means that it has similar issues and problems in common with Trim.

Election of Councillors common to a new expanded Trim Area will ensure a more informed and effectrive repressentation for Athboy. The recommendation to reduce the

representation of the Kells Municipal Area from 7 to 6 and increase the Trim Municipal Area fron 6 to 7, this is to give the population in each area representation of common interest.

John Dooley   *Jenny Dunne*   *Niamh McGuinness*
Acting Chair   *Secretary Meath West*   *Secretary Meath East*
Joint Strategy Meath East/West