

Please see below a submission to the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee from Mourneabbey Community Council. We would be very grateful if you would carefully consider the points noted in this submission.

The main aim of our submission can be summarized as follows, we request that:

1. The District Electoral Division (DED) of Ballynamona, Co. Cork should be maintained in the same Local Electoral Area (LEA) as the town of Mallow, Co. Cork. Which currently sits in the local municipal district of Mallow and Kanturk.
2. The District Electoral Division (DED) of Ballynamona, Co. Cork should be maintained in the same Local Electoral Area (LEA) as the DED of Rahan, Co. Cork. Which currently sits in the local municipal district of Mallow and Kanturk.

Ballynamona is the DED given to the parish of Mourneabbey. There however, certain town lands within Mourneabbey that are outside Ballynamona (namely Monee and Ballinvoskig). Those townlands are within the DED of Rahan, which is adjacent to the parish of Mourneabbey. Other than geography, there are other strong local and cultural links that combine Mourneabbey and Rahan; both areas share common sporting, social and education identities. Both areas traditionally and in modern terms look towards the town of Mallow as the commercial centre of the region. For the reasons outlined here, we would encourage the committee to continue to collocate the DEDs of Ballynamona and Rahan within the same Local Electoral Area. We would caution against distributing these DEDs to separate Local Electoral Areas as it would have the effect of splitting the parish of Mourneabbey, which for a small rural parish, would severely weaken the strength of its collective voice within any new Local Electoral Area.

Following the census of 2006, there was a redraw of the constituencies for elections to Dáil Éireann. In that review the parish of Mourneabbey (as above, corresponding largely to the DED of Ballynamona) was placed within the Cork North Central Constituency. While we understand that your committee is not mandated to alter the configuration of the Constituencies for elections to Dáil Éireann, we would point out that the result of this redraw was to place Mourneabbey at the periphery of a constituency that it does not share much in common with, and is largely out of synch with the remainder of the constituency. We wish to point out that, in our opinion, Mourneabbey is more suited from an administrative, commercial and demographic perspective to reside in the same Local Electoral Area as Mallow. We would further argue, that if the situation arose whereby Mourneabbey was placed on a LEA that did not include Mallow, we would then find ourselves peripheral in terms of both our Dáil constituency and LEA. This would not be to the benefit of our local community. We urge you to give every consideration to allowing the parish of Mourneabbey to remain in the same LEA as Mallow.

In conclusion, we wish you the very best in the work that you are undertaking and trust that your final report will more than do justice to the important task of reshaping local government throughout Ireland.

Yours sincerely,  
 Noel Walsh,  
 Secretary,  
 Mourneabbey Community Council.