



The Secretary,
Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee,
Room 1.67,
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

6/5/2018

Dear Sir,

I refer to your invitation published on the 11th April 2018, inviting submissions in relation to the review of the local electoral areas in Cork City for the 2019 local elections.

The Ballinlough Community Association is now in its 50th year of community activity in the parish. We have looked at the terms of reference for your committee and the effect these would have on the future governance of our city, and wish to express our alarm at the prospect of our parish being divided between 3 new wards, where at present the whole parish is represented entirely by the South-East Ward.

This may come about because of the creation of a City Centre ward, and the stipulation that "no ward should have less than 5 members" as per the terms of reference. This option, as contained in the City Council Submission, would stretch from Ballinlough / Ballintemple across the river – and natural Dáil boundary – to the Northside of the city, to Blackpool, over to Gurranabraher and Sunday's Well, only to come back across the river to include the areas around UCC and City Centre as far as Albert Road.

This seems to go against one of the terms of reference which states the need to keep communities together and to ensure, as much as possible, that communities of place and interest were not split between different LEAs.

The remit and organisation of the services of the Community Association, the Community Forum and the various clubs affiliated to us operate on a Parish-wide area extending to Albert Road, which has worked very well over the years. While we understand that the wards will change, we would ask that the Ballinlough parish be contained as a whole, in one ward, in order to ensure continuity of service and our ability to cooperate with Cork City Council in its funding of many of our services.

We would respectfully request that you take our concerns into account when deliberating and making your decision.

Yours sincerely


Ms. Lillian Downey
Hon. Secretary
Ballinlough Community Association