

Your submission has been successful

Thank you for your submission. We are grateful for you taking the time to send your views. The Commission will consider every piece of evidence it receives before finalising the recommendations.

Your comment:

Dear sirs, while I broadly welcome the proposals, I would like to make the following submission.

Dingle North & Dingle South be combined into a 2 Councillor ward (Possibly with the title of Dingle). The reasons for this are based upon the criteria that was listed as the aims of the review (Section 4).

(a) Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.

The proposals suggest that Dingle North will initially comprise of 2875 electors, rising to 4642 by 2027 (8% above the average electors per councillor). On the other hand, Dingle South will initially comprise of 4713 electors, falling to 3975 by 2027 (8% below the average electors per councillor). This reasoning does not follow common sense, if the rationale is based upon the criteria listed in section 4 of the review (see above). The more sensible option is to combine Dingle North and Dingle South into a single 2 Councillor ward. The resulting merged ward, would then have a projected electorate of 8617 (4309 per councillor), thereby achieving the proposals' goal of 4300 electors per councillor (see appendix A). As a result, achieving the objective of electoral equality.

(b) Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.

As a resident for several years, there is an obvious community identity within the Dingle area. This is long standing, and a source of local pride. Indeed, the exclusion of the waterfront areas from the proposed boundaries has only strengthened this feeling. The Welsh immigrant nature of the community still has strong roots, and the strength of community can be seen in that 12th July celebratory parades are still held along Mill St. There is even a distinct accent, recognisable to all locals. Landmarks such as the Florrie, the Southern Memorial Hall and the former Cain's Brewery (Brewery Village) continue to be local focal points. Grafton Street and

Mill Street are the arteries through which the lifeblood of the community flow. The idea that Dingle North and Dingle South are different culturally is deeply flawed and even though the characteristic terraced streets of Dingle have been replaced by the more modern houses in the north of the community, they are largely occupied by original Dingle residents. The community has a proud tradition and the idea that the two wards are not culturally homogenous is simply mistaken.

As section 12 of the review highlights, the objective of largely single councillor wards is desirable, but it should not override the principles listed in section 4. To this end, I believe that the area of Dingle would be best served by a 2 Councillor ward, based upon the merged boundaries of the proposed Dingle North and Dingle South wards.

Please print or save a copy of this page for your own reference.