

An Droichead represent the Irish speaking community of South and East Belfast, with our core catchment areas being the Lower Ormeau, Market and Short Strand.

We are concerned that the decision to separate these areas by introducing a new electoral boundary, that would effectively exclude the Market from the rest of the area, would have a detrimental effect on the hard work being done by our organisation to bring a sense of community cohesion and pride to the very isolated Market community, which sits uncomfortably along the commercial edge of the city centre.

The Market area depends on its links with the Lower Ormeau and Short strand Areas – both of which are intrinsically linked to the Market historically, socially and culturally – for its sense of community, and indeed there is a strong continuity between the areas which is supported by various community structures.

One of these structures, the Inner South Neighbourhood Area Partnership (in which our organisation is centrally involved) encompasses also the Donegall Pass community. This forum has proven extremely successful in recent years in creating joint community pride and cohesion in services shared between the Lower Ormeau and the two Shaftesbury communities of the Market and Donegall Pass. Anything that would have the effect of putting up barriers to this nascent cross-community productivity would be a retrograde step for all of the communities of Inner South Belfast.