



Croí Éanna

Croí Éanna
c/o Naomh Eanna GAC
Hightown Road
Ballybought
Glengormley
Co. Antrim
BT36 7AU

Liz Benson
Secretary
Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland
Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7AR

On behalf of Croí Éanna, which is an umbrella group representing St Enda's GAC and Pobal Éanna (which is a collective group in the region of 1,000 people) we urge the Boundary Commission to include the Mullusk ward in the North Belfast Westminster Constituency.

The reasons that we believe this process should take place are as follows:

Geographic Reasoning

Currently, the Hightown Road, a main criteria route, is split with one side of the road being North Belfast Constituency and the other being South Antrim Constituency. This is not a rational boundary. For example, Hollybrook Manor would fall within the North Belfast ambit, whereas Hollybrook Road would be in the constituency of South Antrim.

Historical Townland

Ballybought and the surrounding area has been a natural hinterland for in excess of 200 years. The current parliamentary boundary annexes a section of the Mullusk borough into an unnatural constituency.

Demographics

The vast majority of residents who have moved into the new estates which make up the Mullusk ward (e.g. Hollybrook, Mayfeild and Alysburry) had moved from North Belfast and naturally see Belfast City Centre as the focal point.

Amenities

The vast majority of amenities in the Mullusk area are situated on the side of the Hightown Road that is currently in the North Belfast ward (e.g. St Enda's GAC, Edmund Rice College, Glengormley ABC, Gaelscoil Éanna, Naomh Éanna Youth Club etc). This results in the unusual scenario where organisations are applying to statutory bodies for resources relating to constituents which technically live outside the constituency, even though in reality, it is the other side of a two-lane road.



Conclusion

The demographics, townland and natural environment all lead us to the conclusion that the current parliamentary boundary unnaturally annexes the Mullusk Ward from its natural place i.e. as a part of North Belfast.

Kind regards,

Croí Éanna