

A Chara,

I would like to formally propose that Portglenone ward is also put into Mid Antrim constituency along with the other 17 wards from Ballymena LGD.

This would increase the electorate in Mid Antrim by 2,213 and leave it still well within the margins allowed.

The ward of Portglenone should be moved into the new constituency of Mid Antrim for a number of reasons.

These include the fact that there are many natural ties between Portglenone and its residents, and the neighbouring ward of The Grange and with Ballymena town, both of which are moving to Mid Antrim.

The vast majority of children of Portglenone go to post primary schools in Ballymena town.

The means of transport all head towards Ballymena where the central bus and train station is.

Ballymena has long since been the administrative centre for the people of Portglenone, whether this is through the council, government departments such as Roads Service, Social Security, etc.

The people of Portglenone from all denominations would travel to Ballymena to attend places of worship.

Portglenone Police station is a substation of Ballymena PSNI station.

They would travel to Ballymena for their main shopping and leisure activities.

The Grange ward is seen as the rural hinterland of Portglenone with numerous family and community connections intertwined between the two wards and is very much seen as the one community.

*Gary Fleming*