

A chara,

I would request that the following be accepted as a submission to the consultation on the recently proposed changes to electoral boundaries in Belfast

- 1) The exclusion of the Shaftesbury ward from South East would mean the fragmentation of a number of community structures which join the Lower Ormeau (Botanic) with the Market and Donegall Pass (Shaftesbury).
 - 2) Historically and socially the Market area is closely identified with the Short Strand and the Lower Ormeau and would make political, sporting, cultural and community sense for the three communities to be within the same constituency boundary.
 - 3) The following community / sporting and church structures would be adversely affected by the detachment of Shaftesbury from the rest of the current Laganbank DEA:
 - a) The Inner South Belfast Partnership
 - b) The parish of St Malachys Catholic church
 - c) St Malachys GAA
 - d) The Gasworks Interface Initiative (cross community)
 - e) The Cromac Regeneration Initiative (cross community)
 - 4) Much work has been undertaken in recent years to build relationships and structures to counter interface violence and tension at the Donegall Pass / Market / Lower Ormeau. It has helped greatly that these structures have only had to deal with one set of local councillors, to fragment that could lead to a damaging of relationships.
 - 5) To make up for the lose of Shaftesbury, we would propose that Stranmillis goes in to South West instead of Shaftesbury. It is much closer in both geography and community make up to the Balmoral wards than Shaftesbury. It does not have the same community, sporting or church structures linking it to the rest of the current Laganbank DEA. It does however have similar structures which link it to the current Balmoral DEA.

Is mise,

Alex Maskey MLA