

From: Michael Freyne [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 March 2017 09:12
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040- Our Plan

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you to express my frustration about the proposed boundary change in South Kilkenny. It is a matter that I feel very strongly about as I am an extremely proud citizen of South Kilkenny.

Kilkenny is the county in which I was born, raised, grew up in and still live in today. I have no intention of moving anywhere else at any stage of the future, meaning I should also eventually retire in Kilkenny. My identity as a Kilkenny person is extremely important to me and I feel angered at the thoughts of this being taken away from me.

I have no problem with the county of Waterford nor the Waterford people but I do not wish for their county to be expanded into mine.

The boundary has existed for countless years and I honestly believe there is no valid excuse to change it.

As I previously stated, I grew up in South Kilkenny and that's where I'm living now. I want my children and future grandchildren to have this opportunity too, of being Kilkenny people, without having to move from their own village. Being a person of Kilkenny is rooted deep in my blood. My parents and grandparents have all lived in Kilkenny throughout their whole lives, why should I break this strong pride and tradition due to an unnecessary boundary change?

I am a strong fan of Kilkenny GAA. While you can argue that this has nothing to do with hurling or the GAA, you cannot deny that it will eventually have a huge effect on Slieverue GAA, surrounding clubs and Kilkenny GAA. I for one would certainly be sickened to see future generations of mine playing GAA in any club other than a Kilkenny one whilst living in an area that what once was Kilkenny, or even worse representing Waterford at country level. I understand that this would not be an immediate impact, but it would be a major issue down the line in ten or fifteen years.

Overall, I firmly believe that this is an issue that is being overlooked too easily. I feel that our pride as Kilkenny people is being thoroughly underestimated. It is part of our lives, part of our identity, something that shouldn't be taken away from us.

Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail. I truly hope that you can understand the importance of my county to me, and those around me.

I do not wish to be a citizen of Waterford. Boundaries simply do not exist to be changed.

Regards,
Michael Freyne.