

Sub 16/056

Date: 20.12.2016

To : Constituency Commission,  
Room 1.65,  
Customs House,  
Dublin 1

Dear Sirs,

I am in writing to you in response to your request made by the Constituency Commission requesting written submissions in relation to the formation of Constituency for the Election of Members of Dáil Éireann and European Parliament.

I am Chairman of the Local Hall Committee in Clonmore, Hacketstown, Co Carlow which is located in the constituency of Wicklow/East Carlow and as Chairperson of the Hall Committee I have dealings with Politician's in relation to various different matters. In the last general election the entire area of Clonmore, Hacketstown saw no canvassing from a number of different Political parties, the main reason being that these Politicians in the Wicklow Constituency do not view East Carlow as part of their constituency and therefore do little or no work in this area.

The Clonmore, Hacketown area is located within the County of Carlow and is represented at local level by Carlow County Councillors. These County Councillors and local Carlow TD's are the only people who are assisting members of the public. Their work is unrewarded as people are unable to vote for these Politicians in the General Election as they are outside of the constituency. The nearest TD to Clonmore in the constituency is located some one hours drive away and there are major concerns in the area. A recent survey conducted showed that the Clonmore area is the 5<sup>th</sup> worst area in the country for broadband services. We have been attempting to lobby various Politicians in this matter but they are simply not interested as we are on the periphery of the constituency.

As Chairperson of the Hall Committee the hall is an old hall built in the 1800's and in need of complete refurbishment. The only assistance we have received in relation to this matter is from local Politicians in County Carlow. None whatsoever has been received from Wicklow/East Carlow Politicians. None have even stepped foot inside the door of the property. The hall acts as a polling station and is an important part of the community and its refurbishment is urgently needed to facilitate the elections and other community events.

People in our area are committed of County Carlow and are proud of their County and do not wish to part of a constituency of Wicklow whereby Politicians from Wicklow have no interest in the area and for this reason I am requesting that the area of East Carlow be returned to the constituency of Carlow/Kilkenny and remove us once and for all from political wilderness.

Yours faithfully,



Michael O'Flaherty,  
Chairperson Clonmore Hall Committee,  
Clonmore,  
Hacketstown,  
Co Carlow