

Submission to

**Review of NI Local Government Boundaries Provisional
Revised Recommendations Report**

**From
Councillor Michael Carr, Warrenpoint**

April 2009

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Excel spreadsheet with New Proposal postcodes.

Introduction

This submission by Michael Carr, councillor for the Crotlieve area in Newry & Mourne, is made primarily on behalf of almost 2000 voting public from Warrenpoint who feel disenfranchised with the revised recommended council wards, although if implemented will make representation across the whole New Council Area much fairer.

I have previously made both written and verbal representation in the consultation process on the Review of Northern Ireland Local Government Boundaries. I will endeavour to avoid duplication or reargue points that both the Commissioner and assistant Commissioner have deliberated and ruled upon for example ward boundaries running up Cul de Sacs, Across Fields, Through Rivers and even around peoples houses or gardens.

The Commissioner considered the Assistant Commissioner's report and recommendations and then published his revised proposals for the New Ward Boundaries. The primary focus of this submission is to consider the effect of those proposals on the urban area of Warrenpoint and to test the Commissioner's comments on being unable to delineate the ward of Seaview.

The submission will

1. Seek to clarify representations that were misunderstood and misrepresented,
2. Analyse the Urban / Rural representation.
3. Propose the inclusion of a Seaview ward and show how it can fit without impinging on any of the statutory rules.
4. Propose the ward name of Warrenpoint be changed to Clonallon.
5. Show the calculations and methodology of the exercise.

Note: Whilst engaged in this exercise I have come to see and appreciate the enormity of the Commissioner's task and the difficulty in complying with the statutory rules across N Ireland. In order to make the points I wish to make, and because I have limited access to Townland Mapping, GIS and current statistical information much of my base data relates to the N&M and Crotlieve areas. Use of these figures should not be interpreted in any way as making an argument about DEA boundaries, I realise a District Electoral Area boundary commissioner will be appointed in due course.

The Assistant Commissioner's report and recommendations

I would formerly commend The Assistant Commissioner Mr O'Reilly, for the manner in which he conducted the oral hearings. I also agree that the inclusion of extra wards, particularly Drumalane and Seaview would seriously address the Urban/Rural imbalance created in the original proposals. (see *Urban/Rural Split*)

I also realise that the Commissioner, due to infringements of Rule 19 could not adapt the ward numbers allocated by the Assistant Commissioner.

19. (1) *Within any one district there shall, as far as is reasonably practicable having regard to paragraph 17, be substantially the same number of local electors in each ward.*

(see *Ward Average Chart*)

EXTRACT OF THE REPORT OF GARRETT E. O' REILLY

3. the number of the wards in the district is increased by 3 wards to 43 wards by the addition of 2 Newry City wards and of 1 ward between Warrenpoint and Rostrevor;
4. the names of the wards are as provisionally recommended by the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner except that there is an exchange of names as between the revised Windsor Hill ward and the Damolly ward and the names for the proposed additional 2 Newry City wards are suggested as Dromalane and Lisdrumgullion and for the name for the proposed additional Warrenpoint/Rostrevor ward is suggested as Seaview; and

Regarding Seaview the Commissioner appears to accept the argument case for it's inclusion but when he tested it, could not delineate the ward without compromising the electoral balance he had adopted.

This submission sets out to challenge the test and goes onto delineate the ward of Seaview without compromising the electoral balance. The proposed new ward complies with all the statutory rules and observes all townland boundaries.

The Urban / Rural Split

There is an absence of any generally accepted definition of 'urban' and 'rural'.

Designation of Rural Areas

In an attempt to address the issue of how to define a rural area, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) published a Report by the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group in February 2005 which considered this question in depth. The report recommends that Government Departments and other users should consider defining urban and rural areas in ways that are appropriate for the specific programmes and projects under consideration. In the absence of a programme-specific definition, it proposes that settlements with a population of 4,500 or less should be defined as rural. On the basis of this definition, approximately 65% of the Northern Ireland's 1.7 million inhabitants live in urban areas and 35% in rural areas.

Rule 17 of the 2006 Order provides that in determining the number of wards within a district, regard shall be had to:-

- (a) the size, population and physical diversity of the district; and
- (b) the desirability that there should be a proper representation of the rural and urban electorate within the district.

The issues around proper representation of the rural and urban electorate had been largely addressed by the proposed re-creation of the Seaview ward.

Only 3 settlements, Newry, Warrenpoint & Kilkeel in the Newry & Mourne Council area are classified as urban, In Crotlieve the urban area of Warrenpoint is currently 28%, the new ward proposals reduces that to just 17%, and denies 1700 electorate proper representation.

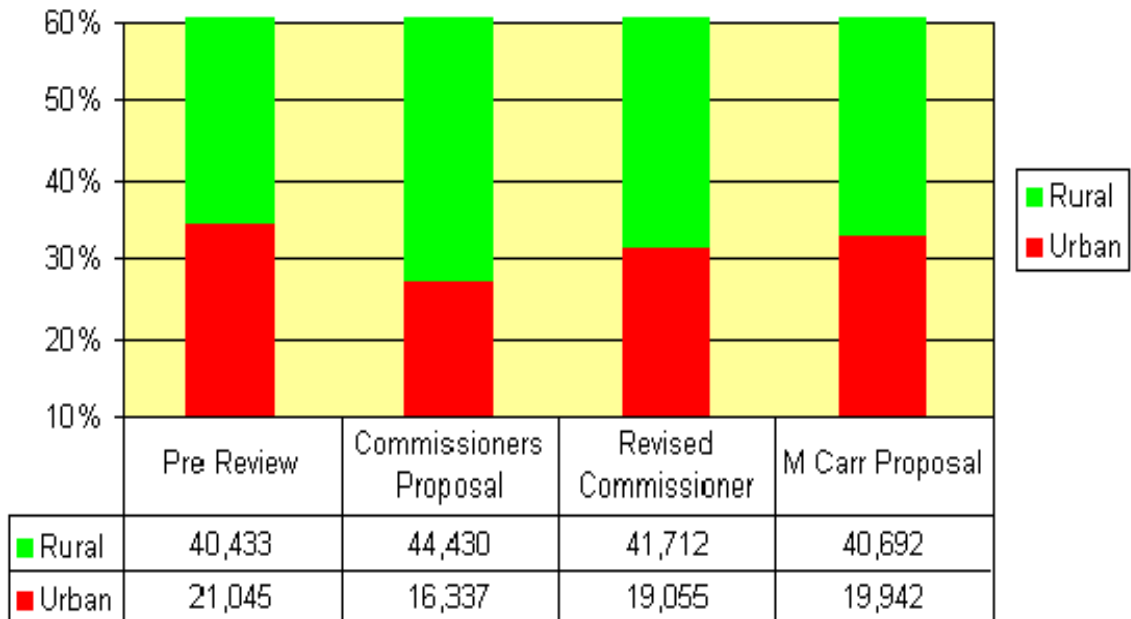
Newry & Mourne

	Urban	Rural	%age	%age
Pre Review	21,045	40,433	34%	66%
Commissioners Proposal	16,337	44,430	27%	73%
Revised Proposals	19,055	41,712	31%	69%
M Carr Proposal	19,942	40,692	33%	67%

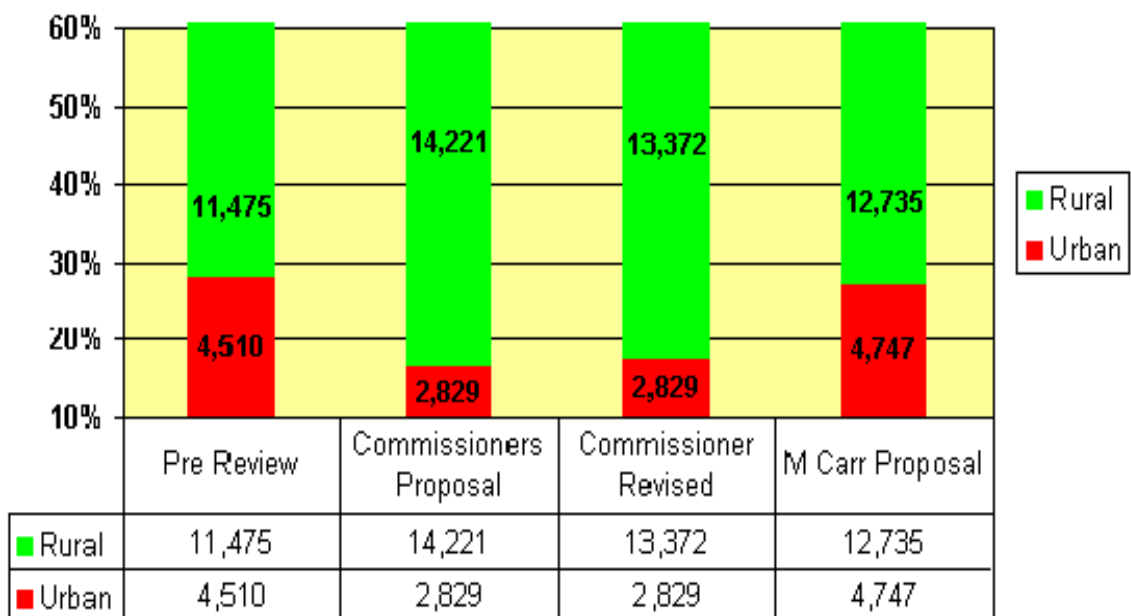
Crotlieve

	Urban	Rural	%age	%age
Pre Review	4,510	11,475	28%	72%
Commissioners Proposal	2,829	14,221	17%	83%
Revised Proposals	2,829	13,372	17%	83%
M Carr Proposal	4,747	12,735	27%	73%

N&M Urban Rural Split



Crotlieve Urban Rural Split



Northern Ireland 1685267

Urban areas 1096616

Band A: Belfast (BMUA) 579554

Band B: Derry Urban Area (DUA) 90736

Band C: Large town 223884

Antrim 20001

Ballymena 28717

Coleraine 24089

Craigavon 57685

Larne 18228

Newry City 27433

Newtownards 27821

Omagh 19910

Band D: Medium town 100625

Armagh City 14590

Banbridge 14744

Cookstown 10646

Downpatrick 10316

Dungannon 11139

Enniskillen 13599

Limavady 12135

Strabane 13456

Band E: Small town 101817

Ballycastle 5089

Ballyclare 8770

Ballymoney 9021

Ballynahinch 5364

Coalisland 4917

Comber 8933

Donaghadee 6470

Dromore (Banbridge LGD) 4968

Kilkeel 6338

Magherafelt 8372

Newcastle 7444

Portrush 6372

Portstewart 7803

Randalstown 4956

Warrenpoint 7000

Extract From:

Table KS01:

USUALLY RESIDENT POPULATION

Table population: All persons

Geographical level: Settlement to Northern Ireland

Only Newry, Warrenpoint & Kilkeel register as Urban Areas.

Rural areas 588651

Band F: Intermediate settlement 65006

Ahoghill 3055

Ballygowan 2671

Broughshane 2364

Castleberg 2758

Castlewellan 2392

Crumlin 4259

Cullybackey 2405

Dungiven 2993

Eglinton 3165

Hillsborough 3400

Keady 2960

Killyleagh 2483

Lisnaskea 2739

Maghera 3711

Moirá 3682

Portaferry 2467

Richhill 2818

Rostrevor 2444

Saintfield 2959

Tandragee 3050

Waringstown 2529

Whitehead 3702

Band G: Village 68008

Annahilt 1148

Annalong 1778

Ardglass 1668

Ballinamallard 1340

Ballykelly 1836

Ballywalter 1416

Bellaghy 1063

Crossmaglen 1459

Cushendall 1241

Doagh 1130

Dollingstown 1844

Draperstown 1638

1479

Portavogie 1594

Portglenone 1219

Rathfriland 2079

Sion Mills 2050

Templepatrick 1556

Band H: Small village, hamlet and open

Countryside 455637

Proposal To Reinstate The Ward Of Seaview

In recognising the Commissioner's difficulties in delineating the ward of Seaview, and accepting his intention to do so had it been possible. This proposal aims to delineate a solution which complies with the statutory rules, and avoids any sectioning of a townland that has not already been dissected by the current proposals.

As previously stated the base data worked from was limited which will explain the extra calculations and the reason for focusing on the area of Crotlieve.

Electoral Numbers

New Ward numbers were calculated on the registered electorate of July 2008.

I had to hand Dec 07 electoral registers for the Crotlieve DEA and the following shows the variance between them and compensating figures used in calculations.

Electoral Registers	Jul-08	Dec-07	Var	Var %
ROSTREVOR	1,954	1856	98	5.28%
SEAVIEW	1,908	1788	120	6.71%
CLONALLAN	2,602	2408	194	8.06%
DERRYLECKAGH	2,793	2636	157	5.96%
BURREN AND KILBRONEY	2,485	2304	181	7.86%
SPELGA	2,013	1946	67	3.44%
MAYOBRIDGE	2,230	2109	121	5.74%
	15,985	15,047	938	6.23%

Postcodes

Along with maps the commissioner has produced postcode lists for each ward – postcodes for this exercise came from the 07 register. While each and every address of the 15047 electorate whose full address and postcode is counted, compensating figures above have been used to calculate postcode numbers.

It should be noted also that the task of delineating wards across this area was more difficult with the revised proposals when it's size was reduced by over 1200.

A database with all the postcodes for the proposed reorganised wards is attached to facilitate the Commissioner in testing the proposal.

Starting Point

The Revised Recommendations Report

Proposal Variations To Date	Comm Original Proposal	Ass Comm Proposal	Comm Revised Proposal	M Carr Proposal
Total Electorate	107,233	107,233	107,157	107,197
Number Wards	40	43	41	42
Average Ward Size	2681	2494	2614	2552

Revised Commissioner

Ballybot	2863		
Warrenpoint	2829		
Mayobridge	2826		
Lisnacree	2818		
Bessbrook	2802		
Windsor Hill	2787		
Ballynahinch	2785		
Drumalane	2783		
Knocknashinna	2780		
Rostrevor	2777		
Hilltown	2770		
Murlough	2761		
Damolly	2739		
Annalong	2662		
Binnian	2662		
Crossgar & Killyleagh	2655		
Derryboy	2630		
Mullabane	2619		
Derryleckagh	2618		
Kilmore	2614		
Ballyward	2612		
Lecale	2606		
Dundrum	2581		
Crossmaglen	2575		
Newtownhamilton	2567		
Abbey	2545	Ballydugan	2441
Tollymore	2544	Quoile	2441
Donard	2513	Whitecross	2439
Kilkeel	2509	Burren	2381
Strangford	2499	Fathom	2381
Drumaness	2491	Forkhill	2369
Castlewellan	2482		
Saintfield	2482		107,157
Cathedral	2473		41
Camalough	2446		2614

Seaview

Broad steps to delineate the Seaview Ward.

1. Use Crotlieve Wards following the revision as a base.
2. Draw the 2 Warrenpoint Wards of Clonallon & Seaview using the townlands of Dromore, Ringmackilroy, Narrow Water, Donaghaguy, Clonallon Glebe, Moygannon and Drumsesk.
 - a. The townlands of Dromore and Ringmackilroy will be bisected and form part of both Seaview and Clonallon, and make up the town centre area
 - b. Moygannon, Clonallon Glebe and Drumsesk will be added to Seaview.
 - c. Narrow Water and Donaghaguy will be added to Clonallon.
 - d. Together these wards form a natural boundary which is readily recognised to people who have had to drive round Warrenpoint due to flooding or festivals.
3. Bring the 383 electorate transferred into Lisnacree back to Rostrevor. It does not upset the Lisnacree Average Ward Size Variation, and greatly helps with identity issues the people of Killowen had with being transferred to the Mourne area.
4. In total 10 wards are affected by the proposal
 - a. Seaview & Clonallon make up Warrenpoint
 - b. Rostrevor, Burren and Derryleckagh show considerable change.
 - c. Newry wards of Abbey, Damolly & Windsor Hill show moderate changes
 - d. Lisnacree only gives back the Killowen area as per 3 above.
 - e. The New ward of Hilltown is untouched by these changes.

Notes:

All the changes have been based around the townland and no townland that had not already been bisected by the Commissioner has been split.

The proposal leaves the ward of Ballybot slightly outside the variation/deviation target of 10%. I did not wish to propose a change in an area I am not representing, but would suggest moving a min 60 of the electorate from Ballybot to the one of the lower percentile adjoining wards such as Windsor Hill, Abbey, Damolly or Fathom.

Ward Data Chart

Commissioner's Revised Proposals		
Ward Name	Number	Var%
1 Ballybot	2863	9.54%
2 Warrenpoint	2829	8.24%
3 Mayobridge	2826	8.13%
4 Lisnacree	2818	7.82%
5 Bessbrook	2802	7.21%
6 Windsor Hill	2787	6.64%
7 Ballynahinch	2785	6.56%
8 Drumlane	2783	6.48%
9 Knocknashinna	2780	6.37%
10 Rostrevor	2777	6.25%
11 Hilltown	2770	5.98%
12 Murlough	2761	5.64%
13 Damolly	2739	4.80%
14 Annalong	2662	1.85%
15 Binnian	2662	1.85%
16 Crossgar & Killyleagh	2655	1.58%
17 Derryboy	2630	0.63%
18 Mullabane	2619	0.21%
19 Derryleckagh	2618	0.17%
20 Kilmore	2614	0.02%
21 Ballyward	2612	-0.06%
22 Lecale	2606	-0.29%
23 Dundrum	2581	-1.25%
24 Crossmaglen	2575	-1.48%
25 Newtownhamilton	2567	-1.78%
26 Abbey	2545	-2.62%
27 Tollymore	2544	-2.66%
28 Donard	2513	-3.85%
29 Kilkeel	2509	-4.00%
30 Strangford	2499	-4.38%
31 Drumaness	2491	-4.69%
32 Castlewellan	2482	-5.03%
33 Saintfield	2482	-5.03%
34 Cathedral	2473	-5.38%
35 Camlough	2446	-6.41%
36 Ballydugan	2441	-6.60%
37 Quoile	2441	-6.60%
38 Whitecross	2439	-6.68%
39 Burren	2381	-8.90%
40 Fathom	2381	-8.90%
41 Forkhill	2369	-9.36%
Total Electorate	107157	
Number of Wards	41	
Ward Average	2614	

M Carr's Seaview Proposal		
Ward Name	Number	Var%
1 Ballybot	2863	12.35%
2 Bessbrook	2802	9.96%
3 Mayobridge	2794	9.65%
4 Ballynahinch	2785	9.29%
5 Drumlane	2783	9.21%
6 Knocknashinna	2780	9.10%
7 Hilltown	2770	8.70%
8 Murlough	2761	8.35%
9 Binnian	2662	4.47%
10 Annalong	2662	4.47%
11 Crossgar & Killyleagh	2655	4.19%
12 Derryboy	2630	3.21%
13 Mullabane	2619	2.78%
14 Kilmore	2614	2.58%
15 Ballyward	2612	2.50%
16 Lecale	2606	2.27%
17 Dundrum	2581	1.29%
18 Crossmaglen	2575	1.05%
19 Newtownhamilton	2567	0.74%
20 Tollymore	2544	-0.16%
21 Donard	2513	-1.38%
22 Kilkeel	2509	-1.54%
23 Strangford	2499	-1.93%
24 Drumaness	2491	-2.24%
25 Castlewellan	2482	-2.60%
26 Saintfield	2482	-2.60%
27 Cathedral	2473	-2.95%
28 Derryleckagh	2448	-3.94%
29 Camlough	2446	-4.01%
30 Ballydugan	2441	-4.21%
31 Quoile	2441	-4.21%
32 Whitecross	2439	-4.28%
33 Seaview	2437	-4.37%
34 Lisnacree	2435	-4.44%
35 Windsor Hill	2389	-6.25%
36 Fathom	2381	-6.56%
37 Burren	2375	-6.79%
38 Forkhill	2369	-7.03%
39 Abbey	2353	-7.66%
40 Rostrevor	2348	-7.85%
41 Clonallon	2310	-9.34%
42 Damolly	2298	-9.82%
Total Electorate	107024	
Number of Wards	42	
Ward Average	2548	

Summary.

Attached: Proposed Ward Pcode & Townland.xls

When the data is extracted from the attached file and the boundary lines for Clonallon, Seaview, Rostrevor, Burren Derryleckagh, Hilltown & Mayobridge are drawn the changes and new boundaries will be apparent, and ward totals should equal the Data Chart above.

Some small discrepancies may appear due to compensatory balancing figures because of using 07 electoral registers but these will be very minor.

Finally – because the proposed Ward of Warrenpoint only represents about 60% of the electorate from Warrenpoint, I would propose it's name is changed to Clonallon.