

## Warrenpoint Seaview ward case presented to Minister



*Cllr William Burns, Cllr Michael Carr, Environment Minister Edwin Poots, Cllr Eamon O'Neill, Cllr Karen McKeivitt*

**[Mourne Observer Article - Wednesday, 23 September 2009](#)**

A CROSS-party delegation from both Newry and Mourne and Down District Councils has met with the Minister for the Environment Edwin Poots to make the case for the ward of Seaview to be reinstated in the proposals for the new Council District of Newry, Mourne and Down. Warrenpoint, which currently comprises of two wards, Clonallan and Seaview, has a population of over 7,000, with an electorate of 4,500.

The Boundary Commissioner has proposed that the town will have only one ward, which in effect will leave the town 60 percent of its original size, with 40 percent moving into the new rural wards of Rostrevor and Burren.

The law imposed a duty on the Commissioner, in determining the number and boundaries of wards within a district, to have regard to matters of size, population and physical diversity of the district and the desirability to have proper representation of the urban and rural electorate within the district. Locals and their representatives believe this has not happened in Warrenpoint. The case for Seaview, which has been proposed at each stage of the consultation process, has unanimous support from both councils and all political parties.

Members of the SDLP and DUP were in attendance, together with the Clerk and Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne District Council, with apologies being received from members of the UUP and Sinn Fein who were unable to attend. Councillor Michael Carr, who led the delegation and has championed the cause of reinstating the Seaview ward, gave an electronic presentation to the Minister and his officials.

Minister Poots will consider the presentation, which challenges the Boundary Commissioner's Final Report and recommendations, prior to laying the recommendations before his colleagues in the Executive and the Assembly. The Minister has it within his power to recommend modifications to the proposals.

Following the meeting Councillor Carr said: "We are very appreciative to the Minister for taking time out and listening to the case for the reinstatement of the Seaview ward. I believe he was sympathetic to the case and will give it full consideration.

"I cannot understand the Commissioner's thinking as to why it is unacceptable that as few as 100 electors from the rural periphery be added to Warrenpoint, yet it is acceptable that over 1,700 of the Warrenpoint urban electorate can be classified as rural. In Crotlieve the urban area of Warrenpoint is currently 28 percent. These proposals reduce that figure to 17 percent."