

Record of a Public Hearing held into the Provisional
Recommendations of the Local Government Boundaries
Commissioner for Northern Ireland in respect of the proposed North
East Local Government District held at University of Ulster,
Coleraine on 30 January 2007

*The Assistant Commissioner, Ms Kat Healy, opened the public
hearing at 09.30am*

<p>Ms Kat Healy, Assistant Commissioner</p>	<p>Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.</p> <p>It is now after 9:30am and if it is convenient for everyone I propose to open this public hearing on the proposed local government district of North East. My name is Kat Healy and I have been appointed as the Assistant Commissioner to conduct this public hearing for the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland. I will just make some formal opening remarks and outline how the proceedings will be conducted today. At this stage, I would remind everybody to turn off their mobile phones and to switch their pagers or beepers to silent please.</p> <p>The hearing will consider the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations for the name and boundary of the proposed district of the North East; the name, number and boundaries of its constituent wards; and the representations made in respect of those recommendations. I will take full account of the oral and written representations made in respect of the recommendations in submitting my written report to the Commissioner within four weeks of the close of this hearing.</p> <p>I want to emphasise that my function is independent of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner. I am not here to defend his Provisional Recommendations. I am here to listen to the evidence and information that is provided by interested parties in respect of the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations. I should make clear from the outset that I will not be able to consider any representations on matters that fall outside the legislative framework for the work of the Commissioner. For example, I cannot consider arguments for an alternative number of local government districts to the seven as set out in the legislation.</p> <p>My report will be independent of the Commissioner and he can either accept or reject my findings and recommendations, if any, in due course. I am assisted today by members of the office of the Local Government</p>
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Boundaries Commissioner and staff from Morrow Communications. On my left is Mandy Morrison, Secretary to the Commissioner, and there is also Crawford McIlveen of the Ordnance Survey, seated to my right. Please approach them at any time with any queries you may have about the hearing and they will be pleased to help you or to draw the matter to my attention in due course.

I am also assisted by transcribers who will make a transcript of this hearing, which will be published by the Commissioner's office as soon as it is available.

Shortly, I will adjourn the hearing for no more than 10 minutes so that I can meet with those who wish to make oral representations and informally arrange an order in which they will be heard. Copies of the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations are available for consultation at the desk at the back along with copies of the Procedure Guide. Also available are bound copies of written submissions relating to this district, which have been made to the Commissioner during the eight-week consultation period that ended on 5 January 2007.

The purpose of this hearing is substantially to obtain local views. If you have a view on the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations, this is your opportunity to make it heard. I must emphasise that what you cannot do is reserve your position and await my report. It will not be possible to make written or oral submissions to me after the hearing has concluded.

I have already examined the written representations received thus far closely as part of my preparation for this hearing. I will be taking those into account in formulating my report to the Commissioner. Some of you have made written submissions and may wish to elaborate on them and develop them during the course of the hearing. I welcome that because it is likely to assist me in considering and clarifying the various issues that they are addressing.

If you wish to propose, elaborate or substantial counter proposals that have not already been made to the Commissioner, it would be helpful if you could inform me during the short adjournment that will follow. However, if you have already made your points fully in writing, please do not feel under any obligation to make any oral submission. You may wish simply to state that you support or oppose a particular proposal for the reasons that you have already stated in writing. I can assure you that full account will be taken of the written submissions whether or not they are referred to during the course of this hearing.

As for the practical arrangements in the speaking order, I

will try to accommodate people as far as I reasonably and practically can. There maybe people who due to work commitments or personal difficulties will wish to get away as early as possible and cannot stay for long. I will try to give them priority if I possibly can. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard and who has difficulty in being here at a particular time, please let me know so that I can try to make arrangements for a suitable time for them to be heard. I would ask people to be flexible as well if they can. It has been the custom in the past to hear first from the elected members of parliament for the respective local government areas, then members of the legislative Assembly, local councillors and thereafter members of the public. There is no significance to that order, save that elected representatives often have other duties to attend to and while not making light of people's work commitments that is a custom that I intend to adopt in the course of this hearing.

Let me say a word about the procedure we will follow in relation to the oral submissions. You will be called to come up to the front seated area and speak from where you will be sitting provided you can be heard by everyone and that what you say is relevant and material to today's proceedings. Microphones are in place. In making your submission, please could you start by stating your name and whether you are speaking in a personal capacity or in a representative capacity and if so for whom. Also please could you state at the outset whether you have made a written submission. If you have a summary or note of the submission you wish to make today, could you please provide me with a copy of that and provide copies for the secretariat. If you do not already have copies of your statement, please approach a member of our staff during the adjournment and they will arrange for copies to be made for you. Your oral submissions will be of particular assistance if you are able to explain the reasons why you have taken a particular position and if you are able to explain any counterproposals, which you wish to make and the reasons for that counterproposal. When you have finished your oral submission, other people may like the opportunity to put questions to you in relation to your submission and any counterproposal you may make. I too may have some questions for you as well on points of clarification.

Regarding questioning, formal cross-examination is not appropriate at a hearing of this nature. However, I am happy for people to put their questions to the speaker through myself. Similarly, for the person answering the question, I would facilitate that in the best way possible. The most important thing today is to hear the information, to hear any counter-points and to get through the hearing as efficiently as possible. I wish to emphasise that it is my

hope and expectation that the hearing can be conducted in an informal manner conducive to all who wish to contribute to the proceedings being permitted to give of their best. I am sure that this will be the case.

I will touch briefly on visits on the ground. After the hearings are over, I may go to view areas under consideration. If there is a particular boundary or feature that you want me to look at then please mention it during the course of your evidence. I will note that and try to arrange to go and see it.

Upon entering the room today, you have been given an opportunity to record your attendance. If you have not already done so, would you please ensure that you do so during the short adjournment. Signing the register will also assist us should it be necessary to evacuate the building during the course of the hearing because it will enable us to check that everyone is accounted for.

I have been asked to tell you that in the event of an alarm sounding it will not be a practice; it will be the real thing and it will be necessary for us to evacuate the building. In such an event, exits are located at the back of the room and through the doors behind me. I have also been asked to remind visitors that the building is completely non smoking. People can smoke immediately outside the building. You are also advised that the public toilets including disabled toilets are at the back of room.

So far as the times of this hearing are concerned, we have two days available, if necessary. I intend to break for lunch between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm and expect to finish today at around 5:30 pm. However, subject to how people at the hearing feel, I will not get too hung up on these times. If for example we are in the middle of a matter involving concentration and on which people are focused, I would rather finish that part of the discussion. I do not intend to stop for coffee or tea breaks. However, free tea and coffee has been provided at the back of the room and if people so wish please feel free to get up and to take a break. I will of course stop for adjournment if issues arise of procedure or people feel that there is a difficulty. That is all I want to say in my opening remarks. As I indicated earlier, we will now adjourn for 10 minutes to take a note of the people who are intending to speak at the hearing and to get an idea of the running order.

Could I ask those who are intending to speak to come forward and to give Mandy your name and we will have a chat about the procedure that we will follow. We need your name and that of the organisation that you represent should you be in a representative capacity. It would also be helpful to know the aspects of the Provisional

	<p>Recommendations about which you wish to speak and to say whether or not you have submitted a written representation. I would also like you to give me a general indication of the time you think you might take for speaking. I am not holding people to that. It is just to give us an indication for the efficient timetabling of the hearing. I am aware that many of you will want to speak today but I am not sure you will understand that I may have to ask some of you to wait until tomorrow, so please be flexible. We will now have a short break for 10 minutes.</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Thank you very much. I would like to reopen the meeting now and we have established a speaking order. Before the first speaker, can I just remind you all that we are making a transcript of all the speeches today, so be sure to introduce yourself and the organisation that you are representing today, if you are speaking in a representative capacity, so that the transcribers, as well as the room, can hear who is speaking, or on whose behalf you are speaking. The first speaker then is Councillor Maurice Mills from Ballymena Council.</p>
Mr Maurice Mills, Councillor Ballymena Council	<p>Thank you very much and good morning, Assistant Commissioner. My apologies for being late due to the parking problems in this place. This is an awful place, Coleraine. It is good to come from a nice town that is well run and organised but then there are difficulties when you come in to Coleraine. It is little wonder I am in it so often. Joke. I can see that Mr Moore was worried there.</p> <p>With regard to the Braid Area (2,262 on the map), Ballymena Borough Council has already submitted a written position with regard to this. We have stated that they feel it would be better named Ballykeel. The reason for this is that Ballykeel is a very large townland and indeed is the predominant townland in that particular area. That is why we have come down on the side of calling it Ballykeel. The name Braid that is referred to in this is an area that is east of Ballymena and does not impinge in any way upon this particular area that you are referring to. Perhaps that name was taken from the Braid River which obviously goes through it. However, there are three townlands there. There is the Dunfane townland, which is in the northern side. Then in the centre around where the showgrounds are we have Summerfield. Those are two townland areas. At least one of them, Dunfane, is a definite townland. The other major predominant one is Ballykeel. Now, Ballykeel occupies the centre of that particular area, as well as the southern part, so that makes it clear that it is predominantly the largest. And we feel that that should be followed through as far as the naming of this is concerned. I think there is little further I need to add to that. Ballykeel in local terms is very much a renowned area in Ballymena and population-wise (at 2,262) it far</p>

	exceeds that which is in any other part of this area.
Ms Healy	Thank you very much. Can I ask if there are any questions for the speaker? Thank you. We will move on to the second then and it is a joint presentation from Coleraine Borough Council.
Mr Wavell Moore Chief Executive Coleraine Council	<p>Thank you very much, Assistant Commissioner. I make this presentation as Chief Executive of Coleraine Borough Council, Wavell Moore. I am accompanied by two colleagues who will also participate: Mr Desmond Wreath, the Deputy Chief Executive, and Ms Moira Mann, the Head of Development Services. We have made a written submission already and this merely amplifies the case that council made at that point. Council has no issues with the ward boundaries. I do not wish to offer comment on the name, though that should not be taken as endorsement of the name. But it does have one issue in connection with the external boundary on which its submission is largely based.</p> <p>That is the proposed incorporation of that portion of Magilligan Strand which currently lies within Coleraine Borough Council area into the proposed new North West local government district, where we accept, and it is a physical fact, that the greater portion of the Strand is already located. Now, council could have made the case that the entire Strand should be within the new North East district but it has accepted that since that greater part of the Strand lies in the now Limavady area, it would accept the Commissioner's argument. I quote directly from his recommendations that Magilligan Strand is "a single natural feature and I consider that for environmental reasons it should be located within one local government district". So for the purposes of our representations we do accept the Commissioner's recommendation in that regard.</p> <p>However, and this is the nub of our case today, the council believes that to achieve that clarity in the management of this natural feature, it is unnecessary and inappropriate to define a boundary line which removes the Mussenden Temple, the Downhill Estate and Downhill Forest from the proposed new Castlerock ward within the North East district. In other words, we think the Commissioner could have attained his aim of providing one single management body for the Strand without going to the extent of removing these significant features from the North East area, where they are so closely identified. That is the nub of our case, as I say. Both in terms of the wider impact in regard to tourism but also in terms of local identity, council is strongly opposed to the boundary line which, as I say, removes these properties. We will be presenting expanded addendums to our written submissions and we will also in the course of this presentation be offering three alternative boundary lines set out in three maps, which will be referred to in detail by Mr Wreath later on.</p>

	<p>In terms of supporting our provisional response, I would like to ask Ms Moira Mann, who is Head of Development Services which incorporates the whole tourist community and economic development functions of council, to speak on the issues of local community identity and tourism. Then, following her, Mr Wreath will move on and explain the alternative boundaries which we believe achieve the Commissioner's desire but significantly preserve what we think is a key feature within the North East district.</p>
<p>Ms Moira Mann, Head of Development Services Coleraine Borough Council</p>	<p>Thank you. Good morning, Assistant Commissioner. If I could address first the issue of local community identity. We feel in the Northern Ireland context that Mussenden Temple is synonymous with the Coleraine area, with Coleraine town, with Coleraine Borough. This has been reinforced over many years in promotional activities where Mussenden Temple is an icon associated with the borough. It features very prominently in council's promotional materials, not just in our tourism literature but also in a whole range of productions such as economic development propositions, environmental education, historical and walking trails, community safety leaflets. It is even in the welcome packs for our new citizens in the last year. What we have done is given you a selection of photographs of some of the said literature and that is in the appendices in our presentation. Also, however, we would say that, in a more local sense, Mussenden is viewed as a key physical feature in defining local identity by the citizens of Coleraine Borough, so we feel that this affiliation is there and it is very important.</p> <p>If I could move on now to tourism. Tourism marketing for this larger area is delivered in two ways. Marketing to countries outside Northern Ireland is handled by the Causeway Coast and Glens regional grouping of eight councils. That is because we see a need to have a larger perspective than just one small borough area. Domestic marketing to Northern Ireland residents is carried out by Coleraine Borough Council.</p> <p>So having explained that, if I could address the regional marketing of tourism. Mussenden Temple in this context is an internationally acclaimed tourist icon in the Causeway Coast and Glens region. Again we have given you the names of the councils who are in that region at the moment. Mussenden Temple certainly complements a group of other major heritage attractions along the north coast such as Dunluce Castle and the Giant's Causeway, and it is an integral part of the unique selling proposition for this area. As such, we feel that it is very much at the heart of the branding and the promotion of the Causeway Coast and Glens, which covers the new North East local government district and it is certainly an important asset within that region.</p>

Much work has been undertaken over many years to establish the Causeway Coast and Glens region as a realistic and a viable tourist destination, and in the last few years this work has certainly started to pay off, especially in an international context. You may have read recently about our status within the Lonely Planet Guide and the Jacob's Creek Top 10 and so on. There is a lot starting to happen and this has really come as a result of the peace and things are starting to open up for tourism in Northern Ireland. So we are making the association with the Causeway Coast as being a strong brand, and the Mussenden Temple as an important icon within that and it fits perfectly within the overall brand. We would see it as being important that the cohesion that has been generated between these various attractions within the area is developed and that parts of the Causeway Coast and Glens brand are not stripped away. In other words, do not strip away some of the assets that we have built up as being essential parts of our overall Causeway Coast and Glens brand. That is one of the key cases we would make.

Also, we would say that there is a great window of opportunity for tourism in the region and we would like to think that the momentum which has been generated would not be lost. Mussenden Temple is of strategic significance in its landmark position to the western end of this coastal area. We feel that it does have a defining geographical role for what would be the new region or the new super council area.

If I could move on now to domestic marketing. Although the proportion of international visitors to the area is gradually increasing, the mainstay for north coast resorts is still very much the Northern Ireland market, i.e., the domestic market. So from a local tourism perspective, Castlerock and the Downhill Estate, Downhill Forest, Mussenden Temple and Downhill Castle are packaged and promoted together by Coleraine Borough Council. They fit well with the coastal product that attracts so much of our borough's visitors.

Again just to give you some context, outside of Belfast, Coleraine Borough area is the number one tourist area in Northern Ireland. It still has the greatest amount of footfall in that tourism context. So Mussenden Temple, Downhill Castle and Downhill Forest are key tourism drivers for the resort of Castlerock and they should continue to be promoted together for maximum impact. They fit together, they are part of a little nucleus there and we feel that that should be continued. Also tourism in Northern Ireland is still not easy, it is improving but things are not that easy and Castlerock is a typical seaside resort - it faces all the challenges of cold water resorts in Europe and in current

times resorts need as many promotional advantages as possible. In the case of Castlerock, its close affiliation with Downhill Castle and Mussenden creates an attractive package to entice visitors and it offers something to see and to do. And that is really so important as we are trying to draw people into the area.

For example, the type of cluster of products that we have now around that area includes arts and crafts studios, horse trekking, fishing, golfing and so on, and we see the idea of them being packaged and promoted together as being vital. The public and visitor perception is of that small hub of activity revolving around what is the quiet little resort of Castlerock, and blending with the adjacent historic properties and natural landscapes. So the interdependency between the resort and the Downhill Estate and their promotion as a combined entity to a domestic market is really important.

As I say, that cluster of attractions has built up around this area and we feel that it has created a synergy. And I think some of the local people in the area would affirm that. It is reflected in the fact that we have quite a number of business start-ups in the Castlerock ward and in the last three years it has had the third highest number of business starts for our area. There are 276 people employed in the Castlerock ward, which is not a big number, but every little helps and so small numbers and small efforts are very important in contributing to the whole.

Also, Castlerock will be the subject of a resort regeneration initiative by Coleraine Borough Council in this new financial year. A key focus of that will be to sustain and to build the critical mass of visitor product in order to maximize economic benefits for the area. Also, with a number of key resorts in the area, we would contend that Coleraine Borough Council is very well experienced and well equipped to facilitate the needs of resorts. Given that we have a critical mass of four established resorts, Castlerock, Portrush, Portballintrae and Portstewart, we feel that there is an economy of scale in addressing and managing resort issues. Resorts are to a great extent our business. Tourism is important to Coleraine Borough Council and with four resorts on the north coast they will be very important for any new super council. There is strong recognition within Coleraine of the significance of tourism and the contribution that that makes. Therefore we would see it as logical that the Downhill Estate, along with Castlerock, should benefit from that broader tourism perspective, and that they are part of a more substantial domestic marketing effort rather than being thrust out into a western area where Mussenden and the estate are alone and not linked into the Castlerock resort. It could be a little isolated in terms of marketing.

	<p>We have a very strong portfolio of marketing for the Coleraine Borough at the moment and I would say, in any new area, resorts marketing will be important, because we will be linking in with Ballycastle and with the other resorts on the east coast. There will be a strength there which does not exist to the west, so we would like to see Downhill along with Castlerock benefit from that overall resorts offering. Thank you.</p>
Ms Healy	Thank you. We move on to Mr Wreath.
Mr Desmond Wreath, Deputy Chief Executive Coleraine Borough Council	<p>Assistant Commissioner, bearing in mind what has been said before, we have provided you with maps of three alternative boundaries that we feel would suit the needs of the new borough council areas. In all three of these proposals, the areas of Mussenden Temple, Downhill Estate, and the Downhill Forest have been retained within the North East District. As Mr Moore has already commented, we feel that, from a management perspective, the beach being involved as one identity in the North West region is acceptable to council, and all three maps indicate that situation.</p> <p>Map number 1 gives an alternative which runs along the railway boundary, fairly close to the Strand. This means that the only thing being omitted from the North West area is the beach itself. Map number 2 takes a more central route and it runs along from the existing Coleraine Borough Council boundary via the Bishop's Road again to the beach entrance at Downhill where it transfers onto the railway boundary and runs to the railway tunnel just below the Mussenden Temple. Map number 3 picks up the existing Coleraine Borough Council boundary, runs along the Burrenmore Road for a period, then via the Drumagully Road and the Bishop's Road and again transfers to the railway boundary just east of the beach entrance where it goes to the tunnel below Mussenden Temple.</p> <p>We recognize that any of these alternatives will mean a reduction in voters in the Magilligan ward but it is minimal. The maximum number of voters would be 48, which would be the case in the alternative shown in map 1, but under any of the three alternatives Magilligan would still remain within the 10% variation of electorate for wards as stipulated in the new area within the proposed recommendations.</p>
Ms Healy	Thank you. Are there any questions for any of the three speakers or any further points?
Mr Moore	Could I just return to summarise.
Ms Healy	Yes, sir.
Mr Moore	Assistant Commissioner, we provided you with three maps and we have expanded in detail the merits of each particular option here. And I think in the overall presentation we have illustrated why the council strongly feels that the Mussenden Temple and Downhill Estate

	<p>should remain within the North East district. But I think the maps as you examine them will really give you sound reasons for how it can be done. In particular, we would stress that all three options — and we would conclude that option map 3 is perhaps physically the optimum solution — do provide a situation where the beach stays in the North West district. And that is important in view of the fact that the Commissioner was making a case for a single natural feature remaining in the North West district. We also think it is very important that the Downhill Forest Estate is not split up as it would have been by the Commissioner's recommendation. All three maps have the effect of retaining the Downhill Estate as a single natural feature within the North East district. I think that will be evident in the map and I thought I would emphasise that, because while the Strand is important, it is also extremely important to manage Downhill Forest and Estate as a single natural feature.</p> <p>Assistant Commissioner, we hope we have demonstrated that the retention of these particular properties within the North East local government district is essential to preserve the local sense of identity. Also to support the highly developed Causeway Coast brand with which these areas are associated and indeed the valuable and critical local affiliation with the resort of Castlerock.</p> <p>Commissioner, we are providing you with three copies of our verbal submissions and three copies of the maps, I will be happy to answer any questions.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Thank you very much. You have answered my only question: which of the three options was your preferred one? Can I ask if anyone else has any questions for Coleraine Borough Council?</p> <p>If not then the third speaker is Councillor Ian Stevenson from Ballymoney Council.</p>
Mr Ian Stevenson, Councillor Ballymoney Borough Council	<p>Thank you, Assistant Commissioner.</p> <p>I am speaking on a personal capacity, as opposed to from the council. I believe that when Ballymoney Council looked at the report they were perhaps parochial in their view because they felt there was nothing really affecting Ballymoney. By and large any problems will be contained in the Ballymoney submission. And whenever it was debated in council, I raised my concerns about the Coleraine boundary, but because that was not parochial it was not put in our submission at all.</p> <p>So by and large Ballymoney is happy with the way things are and my concern was, and it has already been raised, is with regards to Magilligan Strand. I would go further than Coleraine Council, in that I would keep Magilligan Strand in its entirety. I believe that not just in Coleraine but all the way from Larne, which would be in this new council</p>

	<p>boundary, all the way through to Coleraine, there is a massive, as has already been stated, tourism potential. While I believe in the 15-council-model — and that is not for this debate — I believe that the one large council, more than any other perhaps in Northern Ireland, would have more benefit for the tourism industry in promoting tourism if we kept Magilligan Strand. We could market it along with rest of tourism and I believe if that part of Magilligan Strand went to the North West, I do not believe that the same emphasis and the same package could be put in place as that could be within the council area which is proposed.</p> <p>Another submission which I made was in the name for the council area. As a former pupil of Dalriada Grammar School in Ballymoney, and if you actually were there, you would see a mural that shows the entire Northern Ireland part of the Dalriada Kingdom. And so I would propose that the council should be called Dalriada- albeit with the proviso that I will rather have 15 councils. As I say, I feel very strongly that the Coleraine Council has given up too much. I would take everything. Keep it as it is and not give anything to new changes that are being made. In fact if I had my way I would take on the rest of the Magilligan Strand as well, because I believe that no council is better situated for promoting tourism than the council area which has been formulated.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we are stuck with this new larger council area and we have to take in Ballymena or Greater Ballymoney, as I would like to call it. But again I feel very strongly that we should take in Magilligan Strand and the extra bit. I am in favour of Downhill Castle and Castlerock. One of the main things in this area is the Milk Cup, and Milk Cup matches are always played in Castlerock and are promoted as a package for Ballymena, Coleraine, Ballymoney and Castlerock. So I feel that it would be another factor to take into consideration when formulating the boundary.</p>
Ms Healy	Thank you. Are there any questions?
Mr Wavell Moore	Not a question, Assistant Commissioner, but maybe just to put on record that Coleraine Borough Council, if the Commissioner were to rule that there was merit in Magilligan Strand remaining with the North East district, would find that acceptable.
Ms Healy	<p>Thank you. Can I just remind everyone to state your name please when you begin speaking.</p> <p>Regarding another point that was mentioned in terms of naming the council Dalriada, are there any views from anyone else present on that as a potential name rather than North East Local Government District.</p>
Mr Surgenor	I am just going to say that I was listening to a talk by John Marshall.
Ms Healy	Could I ask for your name please, too?

Mr Surgenor	My name is Trevor Surgenor. It is just a tiny point but he said that no matter how you looked at it Dalriada never included Larne, is that significant for Mr Stevenson's submission.
Mr Stevenson	Well, the Dalriada would incorporate part of Larne Borough Council. But I will take you to the mural at Dalriada Grammar School and show you.
Mr Surgenor	I have been there. I used to teach for a while there.
Mr Richard Lewis, Chief Executive Moyle District Council	<p>Assistant Commissioner, Richard Lewis, Chief Executive of Moyle District Council. We have already made a submission for a proposed name of the Causeway Coast and Glens. We did consider the name Dalriada and if I recall it was Maurice Hayes, the previous Commissioner, who suggested the merger of Ballymoney and Moyle at that time and to call it Dalriada, as he referred it.</p> <p>There was some debate, though, as to where exactly the kingdom of Dalriada did extend to. And I know that there was a suggestion that perhaps Ballymoney would have been included within the root kingdom. I am not a historian, and maybe other people would know. So my council avoided that issue because I think also Ballymena would not be included in the ancient kingdom of Dalriada. I am not so sure about Ballymoney or Coleraine. But we went for the Causeway Coast and Glens, because it is already a kind of a recognised brand which has already been alluded to today. And in terms of the marketing, and along with Coleraine, Moyle is a senior partner in the regional tourism partnership. Our submission would be that if there is to be a name change — or maybe this is an issue which would be left to the new council — we would feel strongly that Causeway Coast and Glens would be the preferred name.</p>
Ms Healy	Thank you. Does anyone have any thoughts of Causeway Coast and Glens as a name or further comments on Dalriada?
Mr Winston Fulton, Councillor Larne Borough Council	It is certainly very interesting here today to listen to the new names that have been put forward for the North East. Certainly we in Larne are probably at the end of the North East area, but Larne Council discussed it and they felt that it was up to the new council to come forward with a new name. We are looking at boundaries and yet we do not know how many councils there are be going to be. The government has said seven, but if Stormont comes up, it could be more and those points have to be taken on board. They will have to wait and see how many councils we are having. But we feel that it should be appropriate for the new council, whatever area they take, to name the area. Thank you very much.
Ms Healy	Any other thoughts on the names that have been proposed.
Mr Mills	Yes, Ballymena as a council did not consider the name for the North East area by way of presenting something in our

	<p>submission. However, we did discuss it but we did not come down hard on any particular name. But we did arrive at a position where if a name is going to be placed it obviously has got to embrace all the councils that are involved, namely, Larne, Moyle, Ballymoney and Coleraine and ourselves. So I think if a name is going to be thought out for this, it is going to be on that basis so that it embraces all the councils. But we do not know what the situation is; it could change. I think the political backcloth is changing at this stage.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Can I just ask as a point of clarification do you not feel that either Dalriada or Causeway Coast and Glens embrace all.</p>
Mr Mills	<p>Well, Dalriada I do not think would embrace the likes of Ballymena. I do not think it would embrace the likes of Larne. For a name it is a fair mouthful. This is a personal suggestion, the Causeway Coast, Glens and Slemish. It will be a very difficult one to arrive at, to embrace all the councils involved. You have the Causeway which takes in the Coleraine side; you have the Coast which takes in Larne; you have the Glens which would take in Moyle; and Slemish which would take in Ballymena. You will maybe then have to add Dalriada to that.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Could I just get you to state your name for the record please?</p>
Mr Mills	<p>Maurice Mills, Councillor Ballymena.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Any further comments on Causeway Coast, Glens, Slemish and Dalriada?</p>
Mr Stevenson	<p>Well, I will not really comment too much as Ballymoney was sort of left out of that last one. I would ask them so if they wanted they could call it Causeway Coast and Glens, Slemish maybe Garry Bog?</p>
Mr Maurice Watterson, Chief Executive Ballymena Borough Council	<p>As Councillor Mills said, the council should not discuss the name for a new council and, as he quite aptly put, we would not be keen to accept names which omit the identity of Ballymena —and all those put forward at present do that. We would not be on for that. We would be keen to, as the Larne representative said, for the new council whoever they are to actually decide that name themselves.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>There are no further comments on the proposed name discussion. We can then move to Councillor Winston Fulton from Larne Borough Council</p>
Mr Fulton	<p>Thank you very much, Assistant Commissioner. I appreciate that that we can come along and put our views forward. On Friday we had a council meeting and Mandy and her team were down and quite a number of points were raised by the local council. Mrs Geraldine McGahey, our chief executive, will put their points forward but I just want to make two points.</p> <p>Probably the two points would be that the wards' names that are given in the Larne area have changed. Quite a number of councillors spoke and felt that the old names that were there should come back again and they felt that</p>

	<p>very strong identification should be kept in the areas. They felt that was one of the points that should have been made very strongly.</p> <p>The other point that was made, Assistant Commissioner, was that some of the boundary lines that have been drawn in such a way that they goes through narrow streets and in fact they divide streets up. We felt that the boundary lines should be kept to the main roads. Mrs McGahey will highlight that in our submission. Certainly that was made very strongly, not for any reason other than the people in the area knew exactly where they were. And also for those who have the problems of going knocking on the doors, it makes it easier if you working off of a main road and not working half a street in one ward and half of the same street in a different ward. That is why we felt that wards boundary lines should be kept in the main roads so it would make it easy for everybody.</p> <p>Thank you very much. Mrs McGahey, our chief executive, will give you all the details.</p>
<p>Ms Geraldine McGahey, Chief Executive Larne Borough Council</p>	<p>Good morning, Assistant Commissioner. My name is Geraldine McGahey and I am a chief executive of Larne Borough Council. I have been asked by our council to make representation to you today in relation to the wards. At the outset, council would wish me to put on the record that whilst it is outside your legislative framework, they would want the point noted that they are opposed to the seven-council model and would be in favour of a 15-model.</p> <p>If I can just draw your attention to the ward boundaries starting at the north end of the Larne Borough. Council have considered the boundaries and we are very grateful to Mandy and Crawford for coming down on Friday to assist us with this proposal. We would like to start and draw your attention to Carnlough.</p> <p>The new boundary that is proposed for Carnlough incorporates the former ward of Glenarm. These are two very distinct communities that council have worked with for many years to try to find a unifying theme that can bring the two together. In recent years, we have built a community centre in Carnlough, which was designed to accommodate the needs of both communities, and we have great difficulty in unifying those two communities. For that reason we are suggesting that you might wish to reconsider renaming this particular ward Glenlough, which would be a combination of the name of Glenarm and Carnlough, and indeed is the name of the community centre that both communities chose.</p> <p>In addition, it was apparent from the presentation made by Mandy and Crawford to us on Friday past that the number of electorates within each ward has been based on the</p>

present building infrastructure within the ward and does not take account of ongoing development.

At the moment, right across the Borough of Larne, Planning Service have confirmed to us that planning permission has been given for in excess of 3,000 housing units, and in the Carnlough village itself there is at present construction of 120 housing units. These were actually constructed on site, work is continuing at the moment, so that will change the number of electorates within that ward.

In addition if we can move to the south end of the ward that is proposed by the Commissioner. There is an area to the south known as Carnalbanagh and it is a rural hamlet. The proposed boundary between Carnlough and Ballygalley will split that community in two. It is a well established community with its own very strong local identity, and we would ask that the Commissioner consider moving the boundary of Ballygalley northwards to take account of the Carnalbanagh village. We have some maps here that show where we are proposing to put the boundary, unfortunately we do not have three copies, but they are being forwarded to Mandy.

If we move south to the next ward, which is Ballygalley. Again I have already made the proposal to you that we should be taking part of the Carnlough ward into that to unify that particular community. We suggest that the name Ballygalley would be inappropriate. Ballygalley is an area along the coastline and is not recognised or identifiable to any of residents who would live more inland. Indeed, the centre of that proposed ward is the townland known as Carncastle. It is known by the wider community and it is recognised both in church parishes, as well as townlands, so we will be proposing to you that the name there should be Carncastle.

The Ballygalley ward then leads into the area known as Blackcave on your proposals. Indeed, Blackcave is an identifiable landmark and if you look at your maps it actually lies north of your proposed Blackcave ward. Your Blackcave ward furthermore separates the area of Seacourt, which is an established community. And whilst Mandy and Crawford were with us on Friday afternoon we identified to them that there were a number of housing units that were going to be split between the Ballygalley and the Blackcave ward. Those housing units that we had referred to have actually since being demolished, so the map that your recommendations are based on is out of date. However, it would leave the Seacourt Community Centre in a totally separate ward from the rest of that community. So we are proposing that the boundary for the Blackcave ward be moved north and take in the entire Seacourt Estates and the woods, so that the landmark of

Blackcave would be retained within the Blackcave ward.

Moving on further south takes us into the town centre. The first ward that we would like to talk about is in fact the ward that you have referred to as Gardenmore. The area that is known as Gardenmore, Gardenmore Place, and various other addresses using Gardenmore is no longer contained within this ward. We suggest that the name of this ward be changed to either Craigy Hill or Greenland, which are two areas that are synonymous with this proposed ward taking in at least a third of the Craigy Hill Estates and various other areas within the ward that are known as Greenland. We would suggest as well that the boundary of this ward be changed as well to take into account local identity for the communities and to take account of main arterial routes rather than subdividing particular streets and crescents.

Subsequently, we are suggesting to you that the southernmost boundary to Gardenmore be changed so that it runs along the line of the Roddens and followed by Greenland Road. This will allow for a number of housing units and smaller communities to move into Blackcave and into what you call Larne Centre as well.

Furthermore, at the west side of that ward, adjacent to Craigy Hill, part of the Craigy Hill Estates has been moved in a westerly direction into what is known as Craigy Hill. We would suggest that that boundary follow the line of the Linn Road, which would allow again for much easier community identification — after all local identity was one of key things for this whole review of boundaries.

On that basis if we move further west then to Craigy Hill, or the area that you have identified as Craigy Hill, this is also known as Larne West and at the moment there is substantial development taking place to the southwest area of this ward. In fact, in the region of 700 housing units are currently under construction in that ward. So it will change the population there quite dramatically. We believe that by taking out the section of Craigy Hill and moving into what you have identified as Gardenmore will help address that balance.

The area identified as Larne Centre. We feel that this does not represent Larne Town Centre or any area that is identifiable as Larne Centre, and in fact this is the area that is known as Gardenmore. So we are proposing that this area be renamed Gardenmore. Similarly the boundary that has been identified for this ward fails to take account of natural geographical boundaries. We would suggest that a more preferable boundary to this ward would be along the length of Victoria Road and that the area south of Victoria Road should move into the ward that you have identified

as Curran.

On that point if I can move on to Curran. We feel that this name is quite appropriate to the ward. It was formally known as Town Centre, and the harbour and either of those names would not be recognisable by the new community within the ward. So we are quite happy that it be called Curran. However, we are suggesting to you again that the southern boundaries should be moved further south to take in a wider geographical area. It is quite rural in its nature with a very low population. We would suggest that you move that boundary down towards the Ballysnod area and the reasons for that will become clear in a moment.

If we can move then to the Kilwaughter ward. We are suggesting to you that Kilwaughter, whilst it is a fairly good and concise boundary for that ward, should actually take in a little bit more of the ward that is identified as Craigy Hill. On the north east corner of the Kilwaughter ward there is quite a densely populated area on the outskirts of the town, and that has been identified or proposed by the Commissioner as being included in the Larne Centre and the Craigy Hill ward. Again we would suggest that the boundary be changed along there to include the Ballyhampton Development, which is to the left of the highways, and that would come from the Curran ward.

Again there is some ongoing development within Kilwaughter but it is minor in comparison to other areas within the borough. That then takes us to the Glynn and the Island Magee wards. The Glynn ward is proposing to subdivide an entire village into a 50-50 split, putting the southern end of the Ballycarry village into the proposed ward of Island Magee. Island Magee is a very unique community and they see themselves as being having a separate identity to other people within the Borough of Larne. There would be great difficulty in extending that sort of community culture and ethos into Ballycarry where they would identify themselves much more readily with the area known as Glynn.

However, the population of Ballycarry is quite high and there is ongoing development within the Ballycarry area — in the region of 60-100 housing units which are very much nearing completion. That is the reason why we were suggesting that the current ward boundary be moved further south to allow for a more equitable distribution of electorate within each of the wards.

Indeed Island Magee itself — whilst your electorate is shown as 2,228 — by removing the southern end of Glynn and Ballycarry from that ward will substantially reduce the numbers there. However, there is ongoing development

	<p>within Island Magee and there are over a 100 units in the course of construction in that ward alone.</p> <p>That represents all of the views of Larne Borough Council and, as I said earlier, we will be supplying your staff with more detailed maps to identify those ward boundaries and the reasons.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Just one point of clarification and I am going to ask for a short summary from you of the names, just to make I have got them all. The electorate that is used has to be based on the 2005 electorate, so we cannot take account of proposed property developments. Just as a clarification, could I just go through the wards and the names that you have suggested to make sure that I have got them all correctly? So for Carnlough it would be Glenlough and then Ballygalley is Carncastle.</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>Correct.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Blackcave, the name is alright but it was just moving the boundaries so that Seacourt Community Centre stays within Seacourt.</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>Yes.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Then the next one Gardenmore. You propose Craigy Hill as a name but not a new name for the ward that currently is Craigy Hill.</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>No, the one that is currently Craigy Hill, we would be proposing that it should be called Ballyloran which is the actually townland of that area.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Okay. So the one that is Gardenmore in the proposal should be Craigy Hill?</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>Craig Hill, or alternatively Greenland would be our second option.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Okay and then Craigy Hill is Ballyloran, Larne Centre as Gardenmore.</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>Correct.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Curran the name was fine but on the boundaries you had recommendations. Kilwaughter?</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>Kilwaughter, the name is fine but we are proposing a change to the boundary there.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>And Glynn and Island Magee the names were fine but not the boundaries.</p>
Ms McGahey	<p>Yes.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Thank you. Does anyone have any further questions or points of clarification</p>
Mr Moore	<p>Point of clarification, Assistant Commissioner, not directly though or directly related to the points that Larne make but just to confirm that the exercise of grouping wards into District Electoral Areas is a matter for an Electoral Commissioner, not for this Commissioner.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Yes, any further points?</p>
Mr Stevenson	<p>Just moving on back to the Ballymoney submission. I was looking at one area which was Dunloy and Cloughmills, it is named as that. The District Electoral Area name for there is known as Bann Valley. Perhaps the name Bann</p>

	Valley would be a better name than Dunloy and Cloughmills, which is quite wordy.
Ms Healy	So can you restate the name that you...
Mr Stevenson	Bann Valley.
Ms Healy	Thank you, anything further? The next speaker then is Joyce Rankin from Portballintrae Residents Association. If you would like to come and join the table as well please.
Ms Joyce Rankin, Portballintrae Residents Association	<p>Joyce Rankin, Portballintrae Residents Association.</p> <p>Just to give you a little background. I know that we are not going to be able to speak on the issue of how many council areas there should be, but we would like to put in our objection to it being seven. To give you a little history on us, we are a very small coastal village, which has grown entirely based on second homes.</p> <p>Our problem with our placement, as we see on the map once again, is that we are historically on the furthest reach of Coleraine Borough Council as it is now. It is very hard for us to get representation. Council does not understand our problems after years of working with them. When we look at the ward map, yes, we are historically also in the Dunluce ward but by cutting us off from our natural area, which is the Causeway Coast. Once again we have been denied for years identity to that. Even with marketing we are not considered part of the Causeway Coast and Glens, even though we are the only large size village on the Causeway coast. So we feel that the boundary in this case should be moved for the ward to encompass us in one way or the other, or at least identify us as the major settlement in that place, because if it does get moved to Ballymena we feel that we are completely lost.</p> <p>It is hard for us to be recognised now. We will be completely lost. To give you an idea of how this lost it will be, when you hear the four council areas arguing that they cannot even decide on the name because of their identity, our identity is gone. This is something that I understand is not exactly what we are dealing with but it needs to be looked at as far as the wards are concerned, because there is just no representation for places like us in this kind of grouping.</p>
Ms Healy	So can I clarify, it is the name Causeway Coast more than you would like to be identified rather than the boundary?
Ms Rankin	Well, no, it is the boundary. We want to be included in an area that understands our problems and the area that we are in is rural inland when you look at the map. That this is our historic problem, that we are not represented in a situation that can deal with our geographic issues. As such we felt that for many years we are being hit very hard by problems because an inland area does not understand. And also when you look at Ballymena, no offence to Ballymena Council, it is quite a distance away, 38 miles away from our problems and not having dealt with our problems. This will be a disaster for our area. We are

	trying to fight now too for our own survival and we do not see that this setting will in any way help that, we think it will make it a lot worse. Now, I am not quite sure if any of your area actually deals with but this is only forum we saw open to us to make these points known again.
Ms Healy	So the entirety of Portballintrae to be moved from Dunluce ward into the Causeway Coast ward.
Ms Rankin	Yes, because population-wise we are the largest thing in the area. You look at the grouping and you say, "Something has to be done so at least we can be recognised as this." Whereas with Dunluce, the name is fine but it is an empty building and that is sometimes how we feel about how people recognise it; that we are a place that has just not been recognised that way. Coleraine Borough Council understands our problems and if there is any way to get, if this is the forum to do or not, see if we can have movement forward with the coast for the government seat, I am sorry but this is important to us.
Ms Healy	Do you have a specific ward boundary that you would like to suggest?
Ms Rankin	Well, we could just take all Portballintrae and slip it into the Causeway coast and Glens ward. At least that way we could be represented better. If the bigger situation stands, if we are actually going to be governed by an area that is so far away, at least that way we know that there will be a representation. And that we can be in an area that makes sense to us and which is a coastal area rather than a mostly inland rural agricultural area.
Ms Healy	So would you be using the road, the main road, that is just south and west?
Ms Rankin	Yes, you can just take the Dunluce road and just make the boundary through. That would for us make sense and we did like the name Dalriada because we are actually Dalriada. Our area was that, so that is fine with us.
Ms Healy	Are there any questions? Would you state your name please too?
Mr Ian Binnie, Causeway Coast Community Consortium	I would support what Joyce Rankin has said but it struck me from listening to the Ballymena councillor talking about names that actually our consortium represents people from Castlerock, Portrush, Portstewart and Portballintrae. But under these new arrangements we would have to consider changing our name because we would be outside the ward which is known as Causeway Coast. So the Causeway Coast Communities Consortium would actually be outside the Causeway Coast ward, which would seem rather strange. Thank you.
Ms Healy	Before you put the microphone down, would you have alternative suggestions for the name of the ward?
Mr Binnie	I would agree with what Mrs Rankin has said, I think Portballintrae should be included in the Causeway Coast ward. The other areas, Portrush and Portstewart, obviously because of the large population, Portrush would have to be separate I think.

Ms Healy	But in terms of ...
Mr Binnie	You work on population basis.
Ms Healy	In terms of the name of the ward?
Mr Binnie	No, I am happy enough with the name of the ward at the moment. We would have to reconsider our name I think, thank you.
Ms Healy	<p>Are there any other further points? Then I would like to call Mrs Rankin back just for one other clarification.</p> <p>I was wondering if you had any other alternative suggestions for the way that the electorate and the population might be taken into account if Portballintrae was added.</p>
Ms Rankin	<p>Well, there is lot of disagreement. The electoral register says what our population is, but our housing stock is way higher than our population on the census. It is also growing at an incredibly high rate. We have had our housing stock go up by double in the last 14 years. It has gone from about 300 houses to over 700 houses now, and they are calling it a small village, which is not taking this into account. We have another 250 on the books and they are building constantly every day, so that I think we may end up having to become our own ward like Portrush or a part of Castlerock. I mean our size is like Castlerock even though it is not identified as such, so I think the boundaries are going have to be redrawn.</p> <p>Until that is done, if you put Portballintrae into the Causeway Coast and Glens, and if you were looking at just strictly numbers, trying to keep it around 2,200, then maybe Bushmills could be put into Dunluce ward or something like that. Because while I understand that Bushmills is the gateway to the coast, we are the coast. So at least make our identity stronger for things that come along later. So if you have to juggle the things, Bushmills can maybe be put into the Dunluce ward as an inland thing, and that is totally up to you. But we are just trying to deal with identity issues as it is and this does not help.</p>
Ms Healy	Thank you.
Ms Rankin	OK.
Ms Mann	Excuse me, Assistant Commissioner, can I just for point of clarification say that the Causeway Coast and Glens regional area extends far beyond this new Causeway Coast ward. Just in case there is any confusion about that. This is a new ward name and not to be confused with the brand and the region that we use for tourism. Thank you.
Ms Rankin	Thank you. As a point of clarification, we were not talking about our marketing. I want to make that clear that for us, even though on the marketing thing, we have been sort of left out again, on the far fringes of how boundaries have been working. This is just another indicator that if it stands this way, it just gets progressively worse every time we go along. So with the new council boundary and then being

	on the further reach of a rural inland district all the way on the coast, we do not see how much chance we would have ever have, being 38 miles away from the seat of power, to have any voice at all. So at least if we got put into a ward that had something in common with us we could all fight with the same things.
Ms Healy	Could I just get you to come back once and state your name for the records as well as the other speaker from Causeway Coast and Glens.
Ms Rankin	Yes, the name was Joyce Rankin, Portballintrae Residents Association.
Ms Healy	Thank you and Moira Mann is here as well just for the previous comment.
Mr Stevenson	Could I also come in out there?
Ms Healy	Name first please.
Mr Stevenson	I heard what was said and I have no views whether to move one way or the other because that is not my area of expertise. I would say a point which has arisen, which is the importance of keeping together the electorate of Castlerock, plus the 48 who live in the Magilligan Strand. That would be my main point apart from the fact that Ballymoney is the gateway to the Causeway Coast and Glens, but I do take what they say on board. It does highlight that the Castlerock Community and the 48 people in Magilligan Strand should have been kept on if there was a potential of moving the boundary.
Ms Healy	Any further points. We have one more speaker then.
Mr Moore	Just Mrs Rankin did made reference to the 38 miles from the...
Ms Healy	Name first please.
Mr Moore	Just a point in the light of Mrs Rankin's reference to being 38 miles from the seat of power, I think the distance is only 10 miles from Coleraine.
Ms Healy	Thank you. Anything further before I move on to the next speaker. Next is Trevor Surgenor, an individual representation. State your name please.
Mr Surgenor	Trevor Surgenor, I am the secretary of the National Trust North Coast Members Association and the organiser of the National Trust's annual mid summer concert held in the Mussenden Temple. I am concerned specifically with the boundary as it affects the Mussenden Temple, as well as the other properties there at Downhill. First of all, I fully support the Coleraine Borough Council's cogent and persuasive presentation this morning and I would accept Mr Wreath's boundary proposals in that regard as they fall in line exactly with what I want. Now, I am speaking as an individual but I have reason to believe especially this morning that what I have to say is

the view also of Coleraine Borough Council and the National Trust. But I am still submitting as an individual. I propose to waste the least time. If I simply read the written submission I have for the benefit of those who do not have it and then I would be very happy to answer questions and clarification.

The Mussenden Temple. This building is an 18th century classical rotunda of outstanding architectural merit and interest. It is without doubt the man-made icon of the North Coast, as the Giant Causeway is that coast's natural icon. Although, in the horizontal dimension, the temple appears to be close to the shoreline and in fact some maps actually print the words Mussenden Temple in the sea, in the vertical dimension, it is raised hundreds of feet above the sea on top of a sheer cliff. Access from the beach, which the Commissioner would like to link it with, is immediately possible only for a very skilled rock climber. It is connected also by paths and driveways and roads to the nearby Downhill Castle, Mausoleum, Lion Gate, Bishop's Glen and Gate and Hazlett House, all administered from the National Trust's office at Hazlett House, Castlerock.

Visitors can enter the Downhill Estate by the Lion Gate and Bishop's Gate, and there is also a scenic path regularly used by walkers coming from Castlerock. This easterly and south easterly orientation of the Temple leads naturally to the publicity and promotion of this attraction and the events at this venue by Coleraine Borough Council, which serves Castlerock, Coleraine, Portstewart and Portrush. These are the towns from which most of the audience that the mid summer concert is held in the Temple comes and not the councils to the west. This orientation is reflected in the extensive coverage given to news and events at the Temple and the Lion Gate — the latter like the Mausoleum and Castle would be to the west of the proposed boundary line dividing the National Trust's Downhill Estate — in the Coleraine-based newspapers serving those towns.

Now, Coleraine Borough Council does an excellent job in publicising and promoting this fine building at every opportunity. It is hard to imagine that a council based far to the west could do the same thing as enthusiastically and comprehensively for what it would be a peripheral attraction geographically and historically linked to the area of administration of a different borough council. I therefore suggest that the National Trust's Downhill Estate remain within the area of Coleraine Borough Council, which means within Castlerock, furthermore within the proposed North Eastern area.

Thank you.

Ms Healy

Thank you. Can I ask if you have had a chance to look at

	the three maps proposed by Coleraine Borough Council and if you have just your thoughts on the three models and if you had a preferred version? They have said that the third was theirs.
Ms Mann	Assistant Commissioner, while we are waiting for that. The visuals in the pack that we have given you would illustrate some of the points made by Mr Surgenor.
Mr Surgenor	Thank you. Each of these three boundary proposals answers the problem that I have raised. So exactly where you go after making sure that the National Trust's Downhill Estate stays within this Castlerock zone, I am quite happy to leave to the council to decide.
Ms Healy	So any of the three proposed alternatives would be equally amenable to you.
Mr Surgenor	Yes.
Ms Healy	Thank you. Does anybody have any other questions?
Mr Stevenson	No questions, just to reiterate that I would like Magilligan Strand kept. I would say that maps one or two should probably be overlooked in regards to map three but I would like to go over all of them.
Ms Healy	Thank you. Anyone else?
Mr Moore	Just one general point. One can not help noticing, as we listen to all the submissions this morning, a theme running through them all which I hope, you, Assistant Commissioner, will take due regard of: the whole sense of local identity which we see is critical in everything from ward boundaries to external boundaries and the protection of that identity, if these new districts are to be successful, is absolutely essential. That is a common theme I observed with every speaker this morning and I am sure you will take them on board.
Ms Healy	Thank you. Any further comments or questions? Now, approach the tables just for the microphone please and state your name.
Mr Binnie	I would just endorse what has been said already by Mr Surgenor that as a member of the National Trust I would also be unhappy at seeing this division of the Downhill Estate which is proposed in the proposed boundary. I would like to see the Downhill Estate kept in its entirety within the same ward as the village of Castlerock. Thank you.
Ms Healy	Thank you. Anything further?
Mr Surgenor	It is simply to take the fourth paragraph, one line from the end of it. It says it is historically linked to the area. This is perhaps immediately reflected in the use of name Bruce in the area, which goes back to the death of the famous earl bishop, so that covers a few centuries. I just wanted to emphasise that. I did not pluck it historically out of the air; there is a good support for that. And geographically of course it is obvious that you can walk quite easily from around the Downhill Estate from Mussenden Temple to the

	<p>other buildings. But under the Commissioner's proposal you would expect to be able to walk from the beach up there and, as I say, it is a sheer cliff, a couple of hundred feet high. This is quite unnatural geographically, as well as historically.</p>
Ms Healy	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>As we have gone through the list of speakers that were registered this morning, if there are no objections, I think we can adjourn until after lunch. If there are any further speakers who would like to speak in the afternoon session, if you think of anything else that you would like say, we will be back in the room to reopen at 2 pm.</p>
	<p><i>Adjournment</i></p>
Ms Healy	<p>As we agreed to reconvene at 2pm and it is now 2.15pm, and no further oral submissions have been received, I would like now to formally close the proceedings.</p>