

Office of the Local Government  
Boundaries Commissioner  
Forestview  
Purdy's Lane  
Belfast  
BT8 7AR

A chara,

Beechmount Residents Association would like to make the following recommendations to the boundary commission on the local government wards.

It is our firm belief that Mica Drive, a street situated within the Beechmount area, should be taken out of the Clonard ward into the Beechmount ward.

Mica Drive is in the centre of the Beechmount area and the residents of Mica Drive identify with the area. It is the only street in the 'old' Beechmount area that the boundary commission has moved into the Clonard ward.

Beechmount Gardens, Beechmount Close and Beechmount Grove should also be removed from the proposed Clonard ward into the Beechmount ward. All of these streets are fall within the geographical boundary of the Beechmount Residents Association.

Iris Close, Iris Grove, Iris Mews, Iris Walk and Iris Court should be transferred from the Beechmount ward to the Clonard ward. This area, known locally as 'new Iris', is part of the wider Iris/Cavendish and Cluain Mor areas, all of which are in the Clonard ward. This area is part of the area represented by Clonard Residents Association.

Beechmount Avenue, Braemar Street, Brighton Street, Broadway, Irwell Court, Islandbawn Drive, Islandbawn Street, Shiels Street, Thames Court, Thames Street and the houses along the front of the Falls Road (Mulholland Terrace) between St Mary's University College and St Dominic's Grammar School should all be moved from the Falls ward into the Beechmount ward.

Beechmount Avenue is the main thoroughfare in the Beechmount area and many of the streets in the Beechmount ward run off from Beechmount Avenue. Therefore we firmly believe that this area should be encompassed within the Beechmount ward rather than the Falls Ward.

Braemar Street, Brighton Street, Broadway, Irwell Court, Islandbawn Drive, Islandbawn Street, Shiels Street, Thames Court, Thames Street are all part of the Beechmount/Iveagh community.

This part of the mid-Falls area is represented by the Beechmount Residents Association and the Iveagh Residents Association.

The area of the Falls ward should begin at the corner of the Springfield Road as this is the area identified as the lower Falls.

I would also like to take this opportunity to make the following recommendations in relation to the names of electoral wards.

I would ask that you consider the following ward names;

- Falls should become Ceantar na bhFal
- Clonard should become Cluain Ard
- Beechmount should become Ard na bhFea

Ward names should reflect the growing and vibrant Irish language community in west Belfast where there are many Irish language nursery schools, primary schools and an Irish medium secondary school. There are also Irish speaking areas including the Gaeltacht Quarter, (An Ceathru Gaeltachta), in my own area and the Shaws Road Gaeltacht. There are many Irish language groups, Irish language classes, Irish language businesses and thousands of Irish language speakers in west Belfast.

Many of the streets in west Belfast have bilingual street signage and many of the businesses have bilingual signage, provided by Belfast city council, and changing these ward names in west Belfast would be widely welcomed within the community. This is an opportunity for the Boundary Commission to make these changes.

The Irish language community in west Belfast is growing enormously and I would urge that the ward names reflect the Irish culture and identity of people in these wards.

Yours Sincerely,

Beechmount Residents Association,  
Blackie River Centre,  
Beechmount Pass,  
Belfast BT12.