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- 4 JAN 2007

Cahal G King

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Date: 29/12/06

The Secretary  
Local Government Boundaries Commissioner  
Forestview  
Purdy's Lane  
Belfast  
BT8 7AR

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Provisional Recommendations For New Council Boundaries  
"South Local Government District"**

The above provisional boundaries, as proposed within the south/mid Down area, will divide the envisaged Mourne National Park, (MNP), between the two proposed 'Super Councils' of East and South Local Government Districts. From my experience of working within local government, it is difficult, at times, to achieve continuity of purpose between departments let alone between councils; how much more difficult will it be to make this proposal a reality if the present boundary recommendations go ahead.

With the MNP divided between two Local government Districts, a wider and more diverse consultation process will evolve. Longer time will be needed to achieve commonality of purpose and to agree aims and objectives. There will be the inevitable duplication of activity, greater time needed to formulate ideas, less or even inappropriate decisions may be reached because too many different views, considerations and proposals have to be accommodated, all this leading to a poor value for money result. It is more likely that coordination and implementation of policy will be achieved if the MNP is kept within the sphere of one local government district.

We have right now a unique opportunity, afforded us by the reorganization of local government, to get it right and to implement boundaries that will help make the reality of the Mourne National Park a success. I pray we do.

Yours faithfully

**Cahal G King**