

From: Patterson Francis [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2007 16:26
To: Harkin, Dermot
Subject: Baile Bocht versus " The Quays"

A Dermot a chara.,

I am alarmed at the proposal to change the historic name of Ballybot ("Poor Town" in Irish) to the totally alien " The Quays".

This is particularly ironic in the year in which Irish became an official language of the EU and the EU Committee of the Regions emphasised the need for all tiers of Government and administration to show sensitivity to the needs and wishes of grass-roots communities.

I can see no reason to change the name , other than to provide free advertising for the local shopping Centre of the same name (The Quays).

As a Newry man, with roots in that area, I strongly oppose any such moves.

Ballybot is a historic part of of the town, held in great affection by its inhabitants, both past and present. Ballybot pre-dates the current urban area and stretches from the Clanyre River right up to the outskirts of Newry on the Dublin and Armagh Roads; its population numbers several thousand voters.

The Quays, insofar as they still exist, run for a couple of hundred metres along the path of the old Newry Canal, and contain , at the most, a handful of voters .

I sincerely hope that cultural identity will prevail over bureaucratic insensitivity in this instance.

Is mise le meas.

Frank Patterson, Brussels, formerly of Newry.

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