

A chara,

An Droichead is the Irish language development organisation for the Irish speaking community of South and East Belfast.

Place names throughout Belfast reflect the city's strong and long link with the Irish language. We would like to request that all boundary names in Belfast from now on reflect this by having both an official English and Irish form. (A full list of these could be easily obtained from QUB's Place names project.)

There is a vibrant and growing Irish speaking community in South and East Belfast, contained mostly within the Stranmillis (An Sruthán Milis), Botanic (An Luibhghairdín), Shaftesbury (-) and Ballymacarret (Baile Mhic Airt) wards. Recent census figures confirm this, as do the numbers and demographic breakdown of pupils in our primary school here on the Ormeau Road. We are especially eager therefore that consideration be given to the official recognition of Irish forms for wards in this part of Belfast.

There is an onus on government, as outlined in the Good Friday Agreement and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, to actively take steps towards officially recognising the identity of Irish speakers in the north of Ireland, and we see this as an opportunity to do just that, at a time when the demand for language legislation is making it likely that this will be compulsory soon in any case.

Please also inform me if you will accept submissions in Irish, pursuant to the code of courtesy in the above-mentioned European Charter.

Le meas,

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Dr. Pól Deeds

An Droichead

11 Samhain 2008

A chara,

I am a resident of Andersonstown in west Belfast and am an active member of the Gransha Residents Association and the Upper Falls Community Safety Forum.

In relation to the proposed changes being considered by the Boundaries Commission if the natural geographical and community input is examined it would seem reasonable to make the following changes:

Benraw Gardens  
Benraw Green  
Benraw Road  
Dunmisk Walk  
Fruithill Court  
Fruithill Park  
Stockmans Avenue  
Stockmans Court  
Stockmans Crescent  
Stockmans Drive  
Stockmans Gardens  
Stockmans Lane  
Stockmans Park

**Out of the Falls Park Ward and into the Andersonstown Ward**

Bingnian Way  
Bingnian Drive  
Glenshane Gardens  
Slieveban Drive  
Slievegallion Drive  
Navan Green

**Removed from the Shaws Road Ward and put into the Andersonstown Ward**

Finaghy Road North  
Trench Avenue  
Trench Park  
Ladybrook Gardens  
Ladybrook Park

**These should be removed from the Andersonstown Ward and realigned into the Ladybrook Ward**

These changes would better recognise geographical boundaries and also other long-established boundaries relating to a) community development services and opportunities and b) where the residents of these areas see their natural community affiliation.

The following streets have a natural boundary at Shaws Road and are a central part of the Lenadoon Forum through their residents association, the Upper Lenadoon Residents Association, and therefore it would be more efficient to **move them from Shaws Road Ward to the Collin Glen Ward:**

Corrib Avenue  
Dungloe Crescent  
Lenadoon Avenue  
Naroon Park

The residents of the following streets are closely linked to community activities in the Upper Andersonstown Community Forum area via the Rosgoill Community Association **They would be better placed in the Shaws Road Ward and removed from the Stewartstown Ward;**

Cois Cluana Park  
Connor Close  
Connor Rise  
Rosgoill Drive  
Rosgoill Gardens  
Rosgoill Park  
Shaws Avenue  
Shaws Court  
Shaws Park  
Shaws Place  
Shaws Road

The Stewartstown Streets have no natural affiliation with the Shaws Road Ward and form part of the Stewartstown District therefore they should be **removed from the Shaws Road Ward and included in the Stewartstown Ward:**

Stewartstown Avenue  
Stewartstown Park  
Stewartstown Road

The Stewartstown District also naturally includes (in terms of community activity through the Suffolk Residents Association) the following streets and districts, which should be **placed in the Stewartstown Ward and removed out of Ladybrook Ward:**

Willowvale Avenue (and the rest of the streets that make up the Willowvale estate)  
Suffolk Drive  
Suffolk Crescent  
Suffolk Avenue  
Stewartstown Road

**Ladybrook Park should move from the Stewartstown Ward into the Ladybrook Ward** as it is the main road in this area.

Also, in the general area of these Wards many households have one or more Irish speakers who use Irish as their first Language and most residents of these wards know

some Irish. A number of Streets have their signage in Irish and many more striving to have Irish street signage erected in their area. There are a number of Irish language organisations and, more importantly, Irish medium schools in the area as well.

Given that the Irish Culture is a growing and vibrant part of this area (and as per government and European policies), this community should be afforded recognition and the wards names should be changed into Irish to reflect the wishes and culture of the residents.

**Falls Park to be renamed *Páirc nabhFál***  
**Andersonstown Ward changed to *Baile Andarsan***  
**Shaws Road to *Bóthar Seoighe***  
**Collin Glen to *Gleann Chollan***  
**Stewartstown to *Baile Stíobhaird***  
**Ladybrook to *Sruthán na Bantiarna***

Le meas mór,

Pól Deeds,