

Carrigaline Town Council Formation Committee,
Community Complex,
Church Road,
Carrigaline,
Co Cork.

July 25, 2008.

Eoin Corrigan
Local Government Project Development
Room 2.07
Department of the Environment
Heritage and Local Government
Custom House Dublin 1

Dear Mr Corrigan,

We, the members of Carrigaline Co Cork Town Council Formation Committee, would like to make the following submission for your forthcoming White Paper on Local Government Reform. Our main focus is on the formation of new Town Councils.

These points we feel would be relevant, not just to Carrigaline, but to any of the newly developed densely populated areas in the country.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely,


Geraldine McCarthy Hon Sec

Carrigaline Town Council Formation Committee,
Community Complex,
Church Road,
Carrigaline,
Co Cork.

Location of Carrigaline:

Carrigaline is located 8km from Cork City, 8 km from Cork Airport, 5km from the Ringaskiddy Ferry Port, 10km from the seaside, and 1km from the countryside.

Development of Carrigaline:

From a national Census point of view, Carrigaline is divided into three areas, Carrigaline Cork Rural, Carrigaline Kinsale Rural and Liscleary. The 1970 Lutz development plan for Cork developed a new model, Satellite Town. Carrigaline was one of two Villages identified as suitable to be developed. It was then just a "Village" of 971 persons when the County Council classified it as a Satellite Town of Cork City, with a green belt between the two centres of population. It still has not received "Town" status to date. The population has increased at an alarming rate and the Census return of 2006, listed the population as 16,293. (Carrigaline Cork Rural 10,976, Carrigaline Kinsale Rural 1,707, and Liscleary 3,610) and it could safely be put at 18,000 today and rising. The Green Paper incorrectly listed the population of Carrigaline as 12,835. In the 2002 census, the town with the highest proportion of workers commuting to work by car in the country was Carrigaline (74%).

Why should Carrigaline be awarded a Town Council?

For Carrigaline to get a Town Council, it will depend on a culture change at the centre of the public agencies involved and strong political leadership.

Successful Town Council structures exist where there are good relationships between the tiers of governance/government and strong political support and community leadership.

Minister Gormley recognises the need to promote community participation. In his Green Paper, he puts forward many scenarios to accomplish this, but they must be responsive to the needs and diversities of the communities seeking Councils and not a "One size fits all" response.

Carrigaline wants to provide a democratic voice for its people, and seek to influence decisions by others, which impact on the quality of life in their "Village".

We want to support and contribute to the economic and social improvement of the "Village", and seek out opportunities that will benefit our community.

We want to provide services directly, and in partnership and arranged through third parties, so as to offer services that **the people want**, at the most economic cost.

The town council structure will enable the public to be involved at a local level, identify the priorities for our "Village", forward plan and with joint working arrangements with Cork County Council, these will lead to major successes.