

**November 23, 2007**

## **Local Swords Cumann officially condemns boundary decision – Kennedy**

LAST NIGHT'S meeting of Fianna Fáil River Valley Cumann saw members come out strongly against the independent Boundary Commission's proposal to move the River Valley / Forrest Road area of Swords from the General Election constituency of Dublin North to Dublin West, reveals Dublin North Deputy Michael Kennedy (FF) this morning (November 23, 2007).

Deputy Kennedy said: "Last night's meeting was attended by myself as well as Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Brian Lenihan (Dublin West) and Cumann Secretary, Cllr Darragh Butler."

"Cumann members agreed unanimously to register their strong opposition to the proposal and that it is totally wrong to split the capital of Swords down the middle. Under the proposals, Rivervalley, Forrest Road, Ridgewood, Boromhe and Knocksedan would all be included in Dublin West in the next General Election."

Cllr Darragh Butler continued: "It is totally wrong that for the purposes of balancing population numbers to judge constituency sizes, that the independent Boundary Commission treats Swords as part of a wider Dublin city and not as a town in its own right that should be kept together."

The Minister and Deputy Kennedy also addressed several issues affecting the people of North Dublin, such as the proposed annual bin charge and also Garda facilities in the region.

Cllr Butler said: "Minister Lenihan, Deputy Kennedy and all Cumann members came out very strongly against the new yearly bin charges proposed by officials at Fingal County Council. Minister Lenihan and Deputy Kennedy were both adamant that this was wrong and totally against what was originally proposed by Fingal County Council when charges were first introduced. It was agreed that the council should stick to a pay-as-you-go tag approach instead of a flat yearly charge."

Deputy Kennedy argued that the fixed charge leads to bad debts and is very costly to enforce. Minister Lenihan stated that civic minded residents of Fingal end up paying their bill and end up covering the cost of those who don't and get away with it. Strong representation will be made by the Fianna Fáil public representatives against the matter.

Deputy Kennedy said: "Good news for Swords was that Minister Lenihan did promise that the issue of Swords getting a modern Garda barracks and modern Courthouse on the one site was at the top of his list. Both Cumann Honorary President, Michael McHugh and I have campaigned for this for many years and I welcome this news. Minister Lenihan stated that it is much more efficient when the Garda station and court house are nearby."

"The cumann also discussed the party's plans to move into Northern Ireland and a special meeting is to be convened in early February in order that the Cumann can make a submission to Head Office regarding its feelings on the issue," Deputy Kennedy concluded.