

Press Release

Monday 5th September 2005

Waterford Boundary Extension Plan

Survey shows 49% in favour, 33% against and 18% with no opinion

A survey of householders living in the part of County Kilkenny that Waterford City Council has applied to add to its jurisdiction shows that the proportion in favour outnumbers those who oppose the plan. A report published today by Market Dynamics, a market research company based in South Kilkenny, outlines the findings of a door to door survey conducted in the past fortnight.

Unsurprisingly, there was a high level of polarisation of views between people who come from each county. However, householders who claim to be from Waterford (45%) outnumber those who claim to come from Kilkenny (33%). In addition a significant proportion of the population (22%), are from neither county. This is evidence of the high level of inward migration to this part of South Kilkenny and largely explains the difference in the proportion who support the plan (49%), and those who are opposed to it (33%). Interestingly, householders who are from neither Waterford nor Kilkenny are evenly split on the merits of the change.

Among those who said they thought the plan is a good one, about half (49%) gave as one of their reasons the area's proximity to Waterford. A significant proportion (28%) said they thought that services would be better under the new regime and many, (28%), felt the area had been neglected in recent years. Among those who said the plan was a bad one, the primary reason given was that they were from Kilkenny and that this was important to them (53%). A further 10% were concerned about a possible increase in social housing in the area.

Looking to the future, just over half of all respondents, (51%), believe that services to residents would be better if Waterford City Council took over responsibility for the area, 40% believe they would be the same as now, while only 9% expect that they would be worse. A total of 31% of those who come from Kilkenny believe that things would be better if Waterford took over.

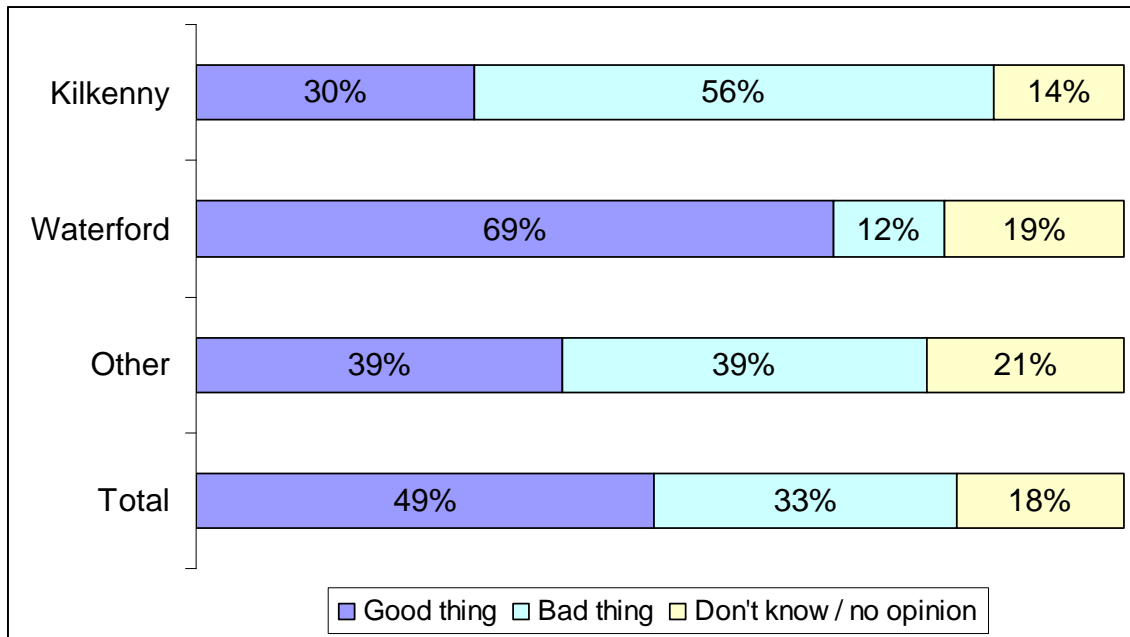
Among those who believe that services would be better under Waterford's jurisdiction, the main reasons given were that bin collections would be better (21%) and that the area had been neglected up to now (20%).

Among those who believe that services would be worse after the change, the primary reason, given by 23%, was that there would be too much building in the area.

Commenting on the findings of the research, report author, John Gilsean said: "looking at the findings it is clear that the Waterford plan has considerable support from householders within the area in question. The primary reason for this is demographic as only one in three people living in the area claims to be from Kilkenny, compared to 45% who are from Waterford. Though many Kilkenny people strongly oppose the plan, this view is by no means unanimous, with a significant number in favour of the proposed change. However, it is also clear from the research that many who oppose the plan do so with great vigour and the strength of these views will be felt in the weeks, and perhaps months, to come".

A total of 150 face to face interviews were conducted with a random sample of householders living in the area covered in the Waterford Boundary Extension Plan. Interviews were conducted in rural areas as well as high density estates and across the whole range of income groups. This research project was not sponsored by any organisation.

Table 1
Attitudes To Boundary Extension Plan of Householders from Different Counties



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