

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Dimàirt 03 Sultain 2024

19:00

Air-loidhne

Geàrr-Chunntas na Coinneimh

An làthair

Eilidh MacKinnon – Chair (Glasgow)
Fiona Stephen – Vice-Chair (Edinburgh)
Sarah Thomas - Stirling
Pamie Jardine – ASN Representative
Joanne MacKenzie – Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Dan Mahon – East Ayrshire
Jon Andrews – North Ayrshire
Wilma Laird – Edinburgh
Gill Steele – Aberfeldy
Joanne MacKenzie – Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Magaidh Wentworth – Comann nam Pàrant
Innes MacQueen – Comann nam Pàrant
Kirsteen Murray – Comann nam Pàrant

Fiona Stephen was in the chair for this meeting as Eilidh was slightly late joining.

1. Leisgeulan

Apologies

Athene Richford

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 30 Cèitean 2024

Minutes of Meeting 30 May 2024

Proposed: Dan Mahon

Seconded: Fiona Stephen

3. Gnothaichean ag èiridh nach eil air a' chlàr-gnothaich

Matters arising not on agenda

Language Assistants – It was agreed at the last CnP Liaison group to re-establish the working group on language assistants.

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant (chithear aithisg)
Update from Comann nam Pàrant (see report)

Comann nam Pàrant provided a report beforehand.

Magaidh (MW) also updated committee on languages Bill. This should be debated in Parliament in September and if passed will go onto Stage 2. Amendments will be put forward at Stage 2.

Comann nam Pàrant put in a funding request to BnaG to carry out a consultation on secondary provision in south-west Scotland. We still haven't heard back on this and latest update is that Bòrd na Gàidhlig are to speak to Scottish Government. Jon Andrews reiterated the appetite for an improved secondary provision within this area and suggests it would be a better use of resources and energy to combine provision rather than limited provision in individual schools.

There was discussion regarding on North Ayrshire's draft Gaelic language plan. Joanne gave clarity on the process between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a local authority in the development of Gaelic language plans. Jon raised concerns about important elements being missing from the plan. Jon highlighted the importance of North Ayrshire establishing pre-school provision in order to grow the number of families choosing Gaelic Medium Education. Magaidh also raised concern that there is nothing about requesting GME or 1+2. Innes, Magaidh and Jon to communicate in formulating a response.

Wilson MacLeod's research on Gaelic Early Years is now available publicly.

<https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/McLeod-Aithisg-Solar-0-3-FINAL.pdf>

This is a useful piece of research, and although we were already aware of most issues, it is good to have clarification through research. The recommendations in the report are the very useful. Some of them can may be a quick-fix eg, there were comments about the difficulties for groups with the paperwork involved for funding and Bòrd na Gàidhlig have already made some changes.

The more challenging recommendations to deliver are on the possible models that could be put in place to support the sector. This may be an expansion of the CnP 0-3 team or establish an entirely new organisation for 0-3 Gaelic provision.

The report should be a platform to make improvements in the Gaelic 0-3 sector and BnaG officers are putting together proposals based on the research. Funding may be a barrier, but it is very important to take this forward as the 0-3 sector is a priority for Gaelic development.

Jon Andrews raised concerns about running the Croileagan sessions in North Ayrshire. A decrease in funding awarded is making it very tight to continue running the sessions. Conditions as part of the grant are making people a little anxious. Strict guidelines on numbers for attendance but the language is a bit scary and overwhelming for volunteers. Joanne explained that Bòrd na Gàidhlig are required to work to strict benchmarks when giving out public funds, however if group have concerns, they should go back to BnaG. Frequent communication with the team at BnaG is key and to ensure adequate support for the volunteers running the group. Joanne will ensure colleagues have been in

communication with Jon/North Ayrshire. Kirsteen is aware of the situation and has been supporting the group.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig (chithean aithisg)

Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig (see report)

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided a report beforehand.

Falkirk has completed survey assessing demand for GME. There seems to be an interest in the area so we hope that they have had a positive response.

BnaG met with North Ayrshire officers regarding concerns raised about secondary plans for GME pupils. They are aware that there are children prior to 2028 due to start secondary, (the draft GLP aims to have secondary provision established by 2028) and they do seem to be working on it. BnaG have given examples of what happens other schools.

There were concerns raised by members regarding the difficulties in the recruitment of Gaelic speaking headteachers. Discussions as to why this is and if there has been any research carried out. Everyone is aware that this is also a problem in English medium education. Eilidh raised concerns that this could be exacerbated by the teacher cuts in Glasgow resulting in teaching staff in promoted posts being more stretched and required to do more teaching. There is concern among parents regarding the cuts.

Eilidh raised with Joanne that there still ongoing difficulties regarding supply list for Glasgow City Council. Concern raised in the past with the difficulties for GM qualified teacher to get on the supply list with Glasgow City Council and this is still an issue. Glendale is down 1 teacher and lucky that they have a supply Gaelic teacher for 4 days a week but this is very much a temporary solution.

Fios as ùr bho na sgìrean ionadail

Update from the local areas

Dan, East Ayrshire – AGM last week. The Sradagan group has lost the venue they were using so are currently trying to find a new one. Current headteacher is leaving so recruitment process is underway for that. The current leader at Pàrant is Pàiste plans to leave so this will make things difficult continuing the group. Teaming up with east Ayrshire Gaelic forum and holding a ceilidh on St Andrew's. Kilmarnock had a fun day which CnP had a stall at.

Pam, ASN – group that she sits on looks to Morgan Report 2021 which builds on inclusion report of 2008. Recommendations as to how to improve inclusion. This network keeps the board who implement the changes accountable. They have until March 2026 to implement these recommendations, and they have currently recommended 50% of them.

Data – audits going on about number of ASN children in Scotland school. No formal way of every LA recording it in the same way. North Lanarkshire found that reported figures were 3x lower than real figures. Parental representation on the board is quite limited so a good opportunity to have representation from Gaelic medium. Pam has set up a forum to gather information from parents.

MW - great to have Pam on this network representing GME. If collecting stats for EME pupils they should be doing the same for GME.

Wilma, Edinburgh – no changes / progress with the council, it feels a bit static now. Still have acting head teacher, parent body was consulted on job description change re. requirement to be fluent in Gaelic. Haven't heard feedback and post hasn't been advertised again. About 18 months of acting head teacher. Situation at the secondary has stayed the same.

Early years offering is still very busy. Croileagan sessions still not back up to what was run before covid, difficulties with recruitment of staff and council process very slow for recruiting.

Sarah Thomas, Stirling – 11 new P1s which is up a bit from previous years.

There is no Gaelic learning assistant with the school anymore. School has failed to fill the post. Council have cut transport for children south of Stirling. Parents now need to claim weekly travel costs which is affecting 6 parents. MW wrote to council at beginning of the week. As far as we are aware, it hasn't gone through committee, but this decision could have a negative effect on GME. For some parents it just isn't possible to drive. There was no consultation, and it just announced with very little warning. EM asked of any councillors in the area if they are supportive of Gaelic and if they are worth writing too. Could this be mentioned in languages bill – strengthened etc? Catchment area for riverside in Stirling is a grey area. As far as we are aware they have never carried out a formal consultation to form catchment area. Joanne and Magaidh to follow up about specific grant and how much they are using for transport. Through the council they have set up an intergenerational Gaelic reading group.

Jon Andrews, East Ayrshire – Croileagan continues to be popular but is now only offer Tuesday and Thursday as Wednesday wasn't as well attended. CnP still to hold their AGM.

Eilidh MacKinnon, Glasgow – three of the primary schools seem to be okay for staffing but issues continue at Glendale. 113 across Glasgow city going in P1 which is an approximate 10% drop. Ongoing concern if numbers are falling away is that the cap has had an impact. Paper went to the council recently regarding high school expansion and moving primary out of the Berkely street campus. Great concern amongst parent that there is no longer a Comunn na Gàidhlig officer based within the city. Very little out of school activities for primary or secondary across the city. Struggling to get engage parents with CnP.

6. GIBSBE / AOCB

There was no other competent business.

7. Ceann-là airson an ath-choinneamh

Date for the next meeting

This will be a hybrid meeting. Innes to confirm meeting date shortly.

IM