

Comataidh Nàiseanta - Comann nam Pàrant

4mh Sultain 10.30m

(air Zoom)



An Làthair

Magaidh Wentworth

Innes MacQueen

Lewis Lang

Kirsteen Morrison

Anne Ramsay

June Graham

Eilidh MacKinnon

Marsaili Dow

Fiona Heatlie

Fiona Stephen

Sarah Thomas

Jim Whannel

Gill Steele

Evelyn Coull

1. Leisgeulan

Apologies

Claire Wilding, Paul Smith, Sorcha O' Carroll

2. Gearr-Chunntas na Coinneimh 8 Cèitean 2021

Minutes of committee meeting on 8/05/21

Proposed: Fiona Stephens

Seconded : Gill Steele

3. Gnothaichean ag Èirigh nach eil air a' Chlàr-chùisean

Matters Arising not on agenda

No matters arising

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant

Comann nam Pàrant Update

Magaidh Wentworth gave update of CnP activities highlighting main developments:

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07771834481

5 Mitchell Lane, Inverness | IV2 3HQ Tel: 01463 234138 | Fax: 01463 237470 | Mobile: 07771834481

CnP have appointed an early year's team with three new members of staff, two part-time posts in the Western Isles and a team manager based in the Central Belt. This is a pilot scheme funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, initially for one year but we hope that it will be extended.

The consultation on catchments for GME in Aberdeen is currently open. Following the council decision to remove transport to GME on the grounds that there was no defined catchment, in keeping with Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, the council are seeking to set catchments. Although historically GME has been city-wide provision they are now proposing a very restricted catchment in the area of the two schools. The proposed catchment for primary is not aligned with the proposed catchment for secondary. CnP officers have been supporting parents to respond to the consultation and we will also submit our own response.

The Scottish Government's language plan is also open for consultation. CnP feel that the plan could be strengthened, for example, there is no information on the Scottish Language Bill or developments for Gaelic Medium Education.

East Ren has sufficient numbers to go ahead with a GMPE application for children enrolling in 2023. Magaidh and Innes have been meeting with parents to ensure commitment from parents before making an application.

Jim updated committee on the pilot areas that BnaG and CnP are working with as part of the review of the Statutory Guidance - Fife, West Dunbartonshire, and Renfrewshire. Agreement from 2 to move forward. Plan is to work with local authority to promote GME in term 1+2 from August 2021. In term 3 the local authority will hopefully have 5 parents committed to submit a request as per the Statutory Guidance. Term 4 will be working with Local Authority in organising delivery to begin in August 2022. This will help assess the effectiveness of the Statutory Guidance.

Following the publication of the OECD Report Professor Ken Muir has been appointed to take forward the recommendations. Although there is no Gaelic representative on the panel of experts, Bòrd na Gàidhlig are represented on the advisory panel.

Post COVID – Local Authorities have extra funding to support Post COVID recovery. Magaidh asked if any members of the committee had seen any evidence of this being used for Gaelic Medium Education. Evelyn Coull said that CnES are looking to recruit more language assistants. Headteachers have raised concerns with listening and talking. They are looking to ensure language assistants have attractive salaries and support packages. Fiona Heatlie raised issues about full-time contracts as council not being able or willing to offer full-time contracts makes it more difficult to recruit teachers.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

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Jim Whannel, Director of Education at Bòrd na Gàidhlig gave the update.

Additional Teaching Qualification is going ahead as a pilot scheme at Strathclyde University. They are retraining modern language teachers to teach Gaelic as a Modern Language. Gaelic as a modern language performs very poorly compared to Welsh and Irish. Local Authorities have worked very hard with Jim in order to find candidates. There will be teachers on the course from several local authorities within the Central Belt. It is fully funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the agreement that Gaelic as a modern language is then introduced into the school on completion of the course.

The annual statistics on GME will be available soon. On first look the teaching of L2/L3 has reduced dramatically and this will be followed up with local authorities.

OECD review. Good news that BnaG are part of the Advisory Panel and they will liaise with other Gaelic bodies throughout the process.

Gaelic Medium Provision opening in Mabu. This is the first GM Provision outside Scotland. Gaelic organisations here including Comann nam Pàrant have met with them and offered a package of support. There are 8 pupils starting with 1 teacher and a language assistant.

Jim welcomed the development with the Early Years project at Comann nam Pàrant.

Teacher numbers - 26 NQT started in August in primary and secondary. The NQT conference was a big success. BnaG hope to fill the two vacancies in the Education Team soon.

6. Cuisean aig ìre ionadail

Issues at local level

Glasgow

7 pupils have been refused placed this year. The local CnP group and BnaG worked hard to find a resolution to this but unfortunately failed to do so. The number of places for Gaelic Medium in Glasgow is currently capped at 140. Concerns that this may be used as a precedence by other local authorities.

There are a few issues surrounding transport in Glasgow that are still to be investigated by committee. It has been challenging to keep committee engaged and there is a need for new parents on the committee. This has all been more difficult with Covid.

Stirling

CnP have managed to secure funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to hold a programme of events over the summer and in October. They also plan to hold a mini Fèis in November and February. They are concerned about the low number of pupils enrolled in the school this year. They are planning to do a small campaign for Gaelic Medium within Stirling. Innes to meet with Sarah to discuss this further.

Edinburgh

Statutory consultation on secondary provision has been paused. The local authority are still very focused on the site at Liberton. There are some concerns regarding current provision at

James Gillespie's, due to the teaching commitment to meet higher demand at BGE there is currently no offering of Advanced Higher Gàidhlig.

7. Aithisg an Ionmhasair
Treasurer's Report

Marsaili gave treasurer's report. There have been no committee expenses. £444 was paid to accountant.

8. GISBE
AOCB

It was agreed that next meeting will be online again. Committee agreed that they would be willing to do it in an evening rather than on a Saturday morning. Innes will send out a doodlepoll.

Martainn Mac a' Bhailidh joined the meeting and gave an update of Speak Gaelic. Eilidh thanked Martainn for his time and CnP welcome this development in Speak Gaelic and look forward to the launch. It is hoped that this will be a great resource for parents who want to improve their Gaelic skills to support their children.