Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) Coinneamh

Dimàirt 22 Sultain 2026/Tuesday 22 September 2026
1900
Air-loidhne/Online

<u>Geàrr-Chunntas</u>

1. Fàilte
   Weclome
   Helen MacKinnon – Chair / Glasgow
   Magaidh Wentworth – Comann nam Pàrant
   Innes MacQueen – Comann nam Pàrant
   Sarah Thomas – Treasurer / Striling
   Jon Andrews – North Ayrshire
   Katrina Laurie - Lochaline
   Wilma Laird – Secretary / Edinburgh
   Athene Richford – Glasgow
   Kirsteen – Comann nam Pàrant
   Martainn Mac a' Bhailidh – Skye

2. Leisgeulan
   Apologies
   Arlene Cameron
   Ali Craig

3. Geàrr—chunntas na Coinneimh 19 Cèitean 2026
   Minutes of the meeting 19 May 2026
   Minutes agreed as accurate
   Propose – Katrina Laurie
   Seconded – Sarah Thomas

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant
   Update from Comann nam Pàrant

Update was given by Innes, Magaidh & Kirsteen

Innes continues to support groups around the country in a variety of ways. Recently supported a group in North Lanarkshire with the creation of a leaflet advertising GME. As well as supporting CnP an Òbain to prepare a response to the draft Gaelic Language Plan.

During the summer a request was submitted by parent to Argyll & Bute Council to establish GME within the Mid Argyll area. There were over 20 children on the application with 5 for August 2027. This has now proceeded onto full assessment with a decision going to committee in December. There is a concern that they are now keeping within the timescales set out in the standards.

Information about Edinburgh Gaelic Week has gone out to schools. This will be taking place w/c 26/04/27.

Thig a Chluich visited Uist and Barra in September after summer ferry disruption prevented the planned visit. Bookbug, singing and craft sessions were delivered with local Sgoiltean Àraich and childcare settings across North Uist, Barra and South Uist. Activities included Gaelic stories, songs and themed crafts, with children and families attending sessions at Taigh Sgire Sholais, Saoghal Beag Nursery, Northbay Hall, Barra Childcare Centre, Cnoc Soillear and Sgoil Àraich Dhalabroig. The visits were well received by children, parents and staff. Some sessions were slightly quieter than if they had gone in the summer holidays as they had planned. However, as they were there during term time, they were able to go to sgoiltean-àraich.

Consultations

Plockton – consultation on moving the primary school into the secondary school on a permanent basis. This has proved controversial and we have had representation from some parents. There is a concern that Gaelic education has not been considered. There will be another meeting taking place at the end of September on this.

Thurso – a consultation to move the Gaelic Medium provision out of Mount Pleasant primary into a newly built co-located school on the site of Thurso High School. The current role of Gaelic Medium pupils is very low at only 8 at the provision in Mount Pleasant despite the provision being open for a number of years.

Lairg – Comann nam Pàrant will be responding as a consultee to the request for GME provision within Lairg. This is currently going through full assessment although officers are likely to recommend this. Unsure as to how this will proceed when it reaches committee. The numbers on the initial application are low.

Argyll & Bute – Comann nam Pàrant will also be responding as consultees to the request for GME in Mid-Argyll. A strong application and will hopefully be straight-forward.

Borders Council – This request is still ongoing now being 1 year behind. Parents remain very resilient. Comann nam Pàrant submitted a FOI which showed they were considering going to advertisement at the beginning of the year. However, this has never proceeded to advert, and parents remain in the dark. Disappointment that the council have not followed procedure and legislation and there is no enforcement on this.

Language Act

Waiting on further commencements of the act.

A discussion was had about the areas of linguistic significance (ALS). Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are receiving over 300k in funding to carry out the consultation. It is thought Argyll & Bute are also receiving similar. There are still some uncertainties with the requirements and standards and this has not gone to consultation. CNES has shared draft standards - D-4B-Areas of Linguistic Significance - Progress - APPENDIX A.pdf
Queries were raised regarding the oversight of the consultation on ALS and how all the funding and resource is being given to local authorities. There was also discussion as to the place of community language plans and their effectiveness.
It was also discussed how difficult it is to recruit suitable qualified officers into positions. There are currently three open vacancies at Comunn na Gàidhlig all in Lewis. The salary proves difficult to attract.
Comann nam Pàrant have an application currently in for 120k to expand the early year's team but unsure if this will be successful.
A discussion was had regarding Gaelic specific officers at local authorities. Glasgow has had no officer now for over two years. Many local authorities give Gaelic responsibility onto existing employees. A thought that for all local authorities providing GME there should be a dedicated officer. There was also a discussion surrounding the specific grant that local authorities receive and how this is spent. Parents could submit a FOI if concerned.

5. Inbhe SCIO
   SCIO Status

The process to converting to a SCIO body is underway. All committee members are required to fill in a form and return to Innes. Form has been shared with committee members.

6. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig
   Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Joanne sent her apologies to the meeting. Comann nam Pàrant continue to be in close contact with the education team at Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Comann nam Pàrant and Bòrd na Gàidhlig will be holding a joint GME information session online on 28th October. There will be a practitioner for early years, primary and secondary there to discuss and answer questions.

7. Cuspairean sam bith a tha ag èirigh aig ìre ionadail
   Any issues arising in local areas

Athene updated committee on the current situation in Glasgow. There has been a long-held commitment to move the primary school out of Berkley Street to allow a full Gaelic secondary school in that building. In June, at a stakeholder meeting the council said they have shelved this plan as they could no longer make a business case. The numbers of P1s enrolling GME has fallen for the past 3 years. A FOI was put in to receive the condition and suitability report on the Berkley Street building. This showed many poor areas and some

classed as ‘bad’. There is a concern about access to social/eating space as well as classroom space and access to toilets. However, a new ‘local champion’ for Gaelic in the city, a local elected councillor who went through GME himself has said that they are still intending to move the primary out of the Berkley street school. There seems to be a disconnect between officers and elected officers.

Katrina updated the committee that GME has begun in Lochaline with a full-time Gaelic teacher now employed which is greatly welcomed. Although there is a concern regarding late immersion within the class and the effect that this is having on the pupils. After discussion, the parents are going to write to the council asking for extra support to be put into the classroom. Katrina will share the letter with MW & IM. The council have also committed to a full-time early years practitioner in the nursery however this is still in an English setting so immersion is difficult.

Sarah gave an update on Stirling. The staffing at Riverside seems to be in a stronger situation this year with a probationer. However, Sarah raised concerned as to how the extraction model is working in practise in Wallace High School. They are taken out of RME, Maths & French for their Gaelic class. They have been provided with little material to ‘catch-up’ in these missed classes. They are also getting three classes of social subjects in Gaelic per week which is welcomed however there is a concern that they have a choice to write in Gaelic or English. Sarah raised the question about the number of languages that S1 are doing – Gaelic, French & Spanish. Magaidh to ask Jim Whannel if there is any advice about the extraction model in other school settings.

Jon Andrews asked what the next steps since the research on Secondary education are carried out by Wilson MacLeod and Jim Whannel. Magaidh updated the committee that this is currently with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and it is planned to set up a working-group to look at the recommendations and how to take them forward. Magaidh will speak to Joanne at BnaG to discuss getting the group established.

8. Ceann-là na h-ath choinneimh
   Date of next meeting

   The next meeting will take place on Saturday 7th November as a hybrid meeting with the in-person meeting taking place in Glasgow (likely Maldron Hotel but Innes will confirm.)