

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Disathairne 04 Dàmhair 2025 10:30am
Taigh-Osta Maldron / Air-Loidhne



An làthair

Helen MacKinnon (Chair, Glasgow)
Wilma Laird (Secretary, Edinburgh)
Sarah Thomas (Treasurer, Stirling)
Athene Richford (Glasgow)
Margaret Millar (East Ayrshire)
Jon Andrews (North Ayrshire)
Alison Craig (Oban)
Joanne MacKenzie (Bòrd na Gàidhlig)
Magaidh Wentworth (Comann nam Pàrant)
Kirsteen Murray (Comann nam Pàrant)

1. Apologies

Gwen MacQuarrie

2. Minutes of Meeting 27 May

Proposed by Wilma Laird
Seconded by Athene Richford

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

Discussion regarding finding a date for the next CnP Liason meeting. We hope to get something decided by the end of year. Joanne and Magaidh will communicate to decide on a mutual date.

4. Update from Comann nam Pàrant

Innes shared a written update from Comann nam Pàrant before the meeting. Additional updates included:

Gaelic Medium Education has started in Lochaline however they have not been able to appoint a teacher. They are getting support from Acharcle Primary with the GME pupils travelling there for part of the school-week. Not an ideal situation but it is hoped they will be able to recruit a teacher soon.

The Scottish Languages Act has now got royal ascent. There was then discussion though as to when the first commencements will be and what will be included. Still clarity needed and Magaidh will investigate.

A strong request for Gaelic Medium Education has been submitted to the Scottish Borders with 35 names of children on the request. There has been a survey circulated to parents asking if they would prefer Gaelic Education or Gaelic learners' education which is raising some concern. However, there is a very strong request, so we are hoping for movement on this and very encouraging to see the amount of interested families.

It was discussed that there is research currently being carried out on the potential of a standalone secondary school in Stornoway. We won't expect a report on this until February 2026. CnP have not, yet, been contacted.

5. Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Joanne shared a written update prior to the meeting. Further updates were given at the meeting.

The changes to funding early years group funding through Kirsteen has been a positive change. Hoping to move forward with further changes to early years and a paper has to be put to the board and hoping for more collaboration with Comann nam Pàrant.

A response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig has recently been completed and sent to the Borders in response to the request for GME. It has highlighted the work already undertaken within the community at early year's level and that this is a very good opportunity to establish GME within the area.

Angus council have had a consultation on placing request and admission policy. BnaG responded to that as felt that they should be establishing a GME catchment area within this policy.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig have supported 27 additional officer posts around the country. Some of the officers were already in their posts and others are newly created positions.

After the issues regarding over subscription in the nursery in East Ayrshire, Bòrd na Gàidhlig wrote to all three Ayrshire local authorities as all access the nursery in East Ayrshire. There wasn't much success although they will consider the placing of siblings in the next session. Discussion proceeded that Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire & East Renfrewshire are still to establish nursery provision. It is thought that Renfrewshire are considering options to establish provision.

Joanne updated committee that Stuart Dunmore is beginning at Bòrd na Gàidhlig as Planning and Statutory Functions Manager and James Graham is beginning as Community Partnership Manager.

A discussion was had regarding the numbers of those enrolling in P1 within Glasgow City has dropped. There is a concern also that there are no community officers in place since the last officer left.

6. Update from the local areas

Oban – a strong intake of P1s. The new CnP created an informative leaflet about GME and this is being distributed. There continues to be a concern with secondary provision and their Gaelic offering. Furthermore, one of the 2 Gaelic teachers will be going off on mat. Leave so there is a concern if this post will be filled.

North Ayrshire – A new Gaelic teacher is beginning at the school. The school and community continue to support Gaelic in a variety of ways.

Stirling – There are 9 new pupils in P1. Overall, the numbers have dropped slightly over the last 5 years. There is still an issue with teacher numbers, and an English teacher is being used to fill in the gaps.

East Ayrshire – The issue regarding over subscription in the sgoil-àraich caused concern among parents in the area with parents not getting a place, even if they already had a sibling in the school or sgoil àraich. The sgoil-àraich is limited by room in the school building. The main concerns for the parents are the sgoil-àraich and also the secondary provision. With pupils in the same class as learners and missing other subjects to attend Gàidhlig classes. Outside the school, pàrant is pàiste continues to do well and the Sradagan group has very high number of attendees.

Edinburgh – another teacher at secondary school has recently been recruited and there seems to be a very positive ethos for Gaelic in the secondary. The primary intake is the biggest in several years with 92 pupils, meaning that there are now 17 classes in the primary meaning the school building is very full. Meanwhile there are only 40 sgoil-àraich places.

Croileagan sessions are now offered every morning which is very positive. The staff are funded through the council however there is no funding for resources for the sessions.

Glasgow – it is felt that the relations with council are very poor currently. The schools are generally running well although the number of pupils in P1 is down 29%. Comparable, English medium intake is down 10% for session 2025/2026. There continues to be the issue that the primary school at Berkley Street needs to move however there is no current commitment from the council to carry this on and there seems to a shift on the council approach.

Jim Whannell joined the meeting where he explained the research he is currently carrying out on secondary provision for Gaelic Medium Education and there was an ongoing discussion and input from members of the committee on their experiences and thoughts.