

Buidheann Thar-phàrtaidh na Gàidhlig

09 Cèitean 2023 18.30

Geàrr-chunntas

Fàilte agus Leisgeulan

Buill

Alasdair Allan, BPA (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Luchd-aoigheachd le cuireadh

Calum McConnell, BBC (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Carola MacCallum (air loidhne)

Catriona Morrison, Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil na h-Alba (air loidhne)

Diane Nic an t-Saoir, Pàrlamaid na h-Alba (air loidhne)

Douglas Ansdell, Riaghaltas na h-Alba (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Finlay Macleoid (air loidhne)

Gillian Campbell-Thow, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu (air loidhne)

Helen McKinnon. Comann nam Pàrant (air loidhne)

Jeff Justice (air loidhne)

John Hay (air loidhne)

Mairi Bochanan, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean (air loidhne)

Matthew MacIomhair, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Rob Dunbar, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann (air loidhne)

Wilson McLeod (air loidhne)

Buill Buidhne nach eil nam Buill

Dòmhnall MacNèill, Comunn na Gàidhlig (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Ealasaid NicDhòmhnaill, MG ALBA (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Iain Mhoireasdan, MG ALBA (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Orla NicDhòmhnaill, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Paul Nevin, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd (air loidhne)

Shona NicIllinnein, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (aghaidh ri aghaidh)

Leisgeulan

Rhoda Grant, BPA

Ariane Burgess, BPA

Ceit Fhoirbeis, BPA

Calum Rothach, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Iain MacAmhlaigh, Comunn na Gàidhlig

Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh mu dheireadh: 22 Gearran 2023

Dh'aontaich Buill ri geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh.

Ballrachd na Buidhne

Thug a' Chathraiche fios gu robh Jenni Minto agus Sarah Boyack air a' bhuidheann fhàgail. Bha Ceit Fhoirbeis airson a bhith na Ball air a' bhuidheann.

Aithisg Neo-eisimeileach air Co-chomhairle Bile Chànanan na h-Alba

Bhruidhinn Dùbhghlas Ansdell air cuspair na h-Aithisg Neo-eisimeileach air a' Cho-chomhairle air Bile Cànanan na h-Alba. Chaidh tàr-shealladh air freagairtean co-chomhairleachaidh a thoirt seachad, agus chaidh taing a thoirt don fheadhainn a thug seachad freagairtean. Chaidh clàr-ama obrach a chaidh a dhèanamh co-cheangailte ri Bile Chànanan na h-Alba a sholarachadh agus chaidh innse don bhuidheann gun robh dùil gum biodh an aithisg neo-eisimeileach air fhoillseachadh air 07 Ògmhios 2023. Dh'innis e gun robh timcheall air 750 freagairtean ann agus gun deach leirmheas neo-eisimeileach a dhèanamh orra. B' e na prìomh theachdaireachdan a chaidh ainmeachadh tron cho-chomhairle gun robh feum air obair air leasachadh foghlaim, cumhachdan leasaichte airson Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus chaidh diofar dhòighean air taic a thoirt do luchd-labhairt a chomharrachadh.

Chaidh tàr-shealladh a thoirt air an rannsachadh a rinn Riaghaltas na h-Alba gus comharrachadh mar as urrainnear Cànanan na h-Alba a neartachadh. Ghabh seo a-steach ath-sgrùdadh air far an robh a' Ghàidhlig air a nochdadh ann an reachdas bho 1980, agus chaidh rannsachaidhean air mar a ghabhadh iad sin a neartachadh a dhèanamh agus a chuir air adhart gu co-obraichean laghail. Thugadh fa-near gun robhas a' beachdachadh air bacaidhean air soirbheachas, mar eisimpleir fastadh thidsearan agus leantailachd ann am Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Bha còmhradh air a bhith ann cuideachd le co-oibrichean aig Riaghaltas na Cuimrigh mun obair aca ann a bhith a' neartachadh na Cuimris. Thugadh tàr-shealladh a thoirt seachad air an obair a chaidh a dhèanamh timcheall air foghlam Cuimris. Dh'innis Douglas Ansdell don bhuidheann gun robhar air a bhith a' beachdachadh air mar a dh'fhaodadh obair a chaidh a dhèanamh sa Chuimrigh fuasglaidhean sam bith a thabhann don obair a thathas a' dèanamh air Cànanan na h-Alba, gu sònraichte co-cheangailte ri foghlam agus Planaichean Gàidhlig.

Chaidh fiosrachadh a thoirt seachad air gnìomhan agus structaran Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus mar a bheireadh atharrachadh sam bith ann an taic agus brosnachadh na Gàidhlig, mar thoradh air geallaidhean manifesto, buaidh air an cuid obrach.

Airson crìochnachadh, dh'aidich Douglas Ansdell gun robh tòrr obair ri dhèanamh fhathast agus thug e ath-shùil air na raointean air an robh Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' beachdachadh. Chaidh innse dhan

bhuidheann gum biodh Sgioba na Gàidhlig is Albais a' feuchainn ri comhairle a thoirt seachad gus a' Ghàidhlig neartachadh agus gum biodh iad toilichte coinneachadh ri Buill gus beachdan a dheasbad.

Dh'fhaighnich an Cathraiche am biodh cothrom ann taobh a-staigh a' Bhile airson dèanamh cinnteach gum biodh a h-uile duine a bha ag obair san roinn phoblaich an sàs ann an obair leasachaidh na Gàidhlig. Fhreagair Douglas Ansdell gun deach a' phuing seo a thogail tron cho-chomhairle agus gu robh e an dùil gum biodh ùghdarrasan agus buidhnean poblach a tha an sàs ann an raointean sònraichte an sàs ann.

Chaidh ceist a thogail mu mar a nithear cinnteach gun gabh Gàidhlig a chleachdadh a h-uile latha, mar a chaidh a choileanadh sa Chuimrigh. Dh'innis Douglas Ansdell don bhuidheann gun robh a' phuing seo air nochdadh ann an còmhraidhean le co-obraichean aig Riaghaltas na Cuimrigh agus air nochdadh ann am freagairtean co-chomhairleachaidh. Thug e seachad beagan fiosrachaidh mu siostaman Cuimreach agus mar a ghabhadh iad sin a chur an gnìomh ann an Alba ach chuir e cuideam air a' phuing gu robh tòrr obair ri dhèanamh mus tig co-dhùnaidhean sam bith.

Dh'innis Shona NicIllinnein, Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, gun robh Comataidh Poileasaidh is Goireasan Bhòrd na Gàidhlig air coinneachadh na bu thràithe air an latha gus beachdachadh air an Stiùireadh Reachdail airson Planaichean Gàidhlig agus gun robhas a' leasachadh stiùireadh às ùr. Thog i gur e seo aon dòigh airson suidheachadh na Gàidhlig a neartachadh fhad 's a thathar a' feitheamh air Bile ùr. Bhrosnaich i a' bhuidheann gus beachdachadh air mar a ghabhadh atharrachaidhean reachdail a dhèanamh nach robh cho susbainteach ri Achd no Bile ùr. Dh'innis Douglas Ansdell don bhuidheann gu robh an reachdas làithreach a' ceadachadh stiùireadh a chruthachadh agus riaghailtean a thoirt gu buil agus gu bheilear an dòchas gun tèid seo a neartachadh.

Chaidh nàdar farsaing nam freagairtean co-chomhairle a thogail, le ceist gu Douglas Ansdell an robh dùil ri tuilleadh co-chomhairleachaidh air raointean sònraichte. Fhreagair e nach robh dùil ri tuilleadh co-chomhairleachaidh poblach ach gun tigeadh an ath ìre de cho-chomhairle ann an cruth Comataidh Pàrlamaid nuair a thèid am Bile a thoirt air adhart.

Chaidh ceist a thogail mun Ghàidhlig mar chuspair san àrd-sgoil agus carson a tha crìonadh air a bhith anns na sgoilearan a tha ga taghadh. Thuirt Douglas Ansdell gun robh seo air nochdadh ann am freagairtean co-chomhairleachaidh agus gur e duilgheadas a bha seo air an robh iad mothachail. Dh'innis e gun robh còmhraidhean gan cumail taobh a-staigh Riaghaltas na h-Alba mu ath-leasachadh foghlaim taobh a-staigh raon de Chomataidhean. Dh'innis e nan tèid reachdas ath-leasachadh foghlaim a thoirt air adhart gur dòcha gun tèid seo a thoirt don Phàrlamaid ro Bhile Chànanan Albannach agus gum bu chòir leantainn orra gu cunbhalach.

Thug Shona NicIllinnein seachad fiosrachadh mun obair a bha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a dhèanamh co-cheangailte ri Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim. Thogadh cho cudromach sa bha e gum biodh Foghlam Gàidhlig air a thoirt a-steach do chòmhraidhean bho na tràth ìrean de bhuidhnean foghlaim ùra sam bith, oir nan deach an cothrom seo a chall bhiodh e duilich a cheartachadh. Dh'innis i dhan bhuidheann, ann am Freagairt Co-chomhairle aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig, gun deach a' thogail nach robh Gàidhlig air a taghadh mar chànan 1+2 ann am bun-sgoiltean far nach robh an àrd-sgoil a' tabhann Gàidhlig mar chuspair. Airson seo fhuasgladh, bha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a bhith a' toirt maoin eachadh do dh' Oilthigh Shrath Chluaidh gus cùrsa teagaisg Gàidhlig a lìbhrigeadh.

Thug Gillian Caimbeul-Thow, Ceannard Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu, mìneachadh don bhuidheann air cuid de na dùbhlain a bha ri fhaicinn an teagasg Gàidhlig, a' gabhail a-steach adhartas dreuchdail agus beachd a' phobaill air a' Ghàidhlig. Thug i seachad fiosrachadh às ùr air an obair a thathar a'

dèanamh aig Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu gus cur-seachadan taobh a-muigh na sgoile a leasachadh gus cothrom a thoirt don chloinn luach an dà-chànanais aca a thoirt gu buil. Thug i taing dhan fheadhainn a tha a' toirt taic dhaibhsan a tha a' tòiseachadh air dreuchd ann am foghlam Gàidhlig.

Thogadh puing mu cho cudromach sa tha togail coimhearsnachdan ann an obair leasachaidh na Gàidhlig agus chaidh fhaighneachd gu dè an ìre a chaidh seo a thogail san co-chomhairle. Thug Douglas Ansdell seachad fiosrachadh air difear dòighean as urrainn don Riaghaltas a bhith a' toirt taic do thogail coimhearsnachdan.

Chaidh fhaighneachd cuideachd mu na h-adhbharan nach eil ionadan fòghlam Gàidhlig a' tighinn air adhart ann an cuid de sgìrean far an deach iarrtasan a chur a-staigh airson foghlam Gàidhlig le pàrantan. Thug Shona NicIllinnein seachad a bheachd gu robh siostam nas làidire le barrachd cumhachd a dhìth. Thugadh fios air ciamar a bu chòir dhan pròiseas a bhith coimhead, agus na factaran a bhiodh a' toirt taic don a seo, gu h-àraidh barrachd còraichean agus tuilleadh maoinachadh.

GISBE

Chaidh fhaighneachd mu Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam agus Sgilean agus an dàimh a th' aice leis a' Ghàidhlig. Chaidh aontachadh gun tèid cuireadh thuice don ath choinneamh den Bhuidheann Thar-phàrtaidh na Gàidhlig san t-Sultain.

Thug Shona NicIllinnein, Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, aithris seachad air còmhraidhean a bh' aice le Rùnaire a' Chaibineit agus mhol i an obair a rinn i le coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig suas chun na h-ìre seo. Thugadh fios gum biodh i fhèin agus Cathraiche Bhòrd na Gàidhlig a' coinneachadh ris a' Rùnaire an ath latha.

Ceann-là na h-Ath Choinneimh : 12 Sultain 2023

Thug a' Chathraiche fios gur e an AGM a bhiodh anns an ath choinneimh.

Cross-Party Group on Gaelic

09 May 2023 18.30

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Alasdair Allan, MSP (in person)

Invited Guests

Calum McConnell, BBC (in person)

Carola MacCallum (online)

Catriona Morrison, Historic Environment Scotland (online)

Diane MacIntyre, Scottish Parliament (online)

Douglas Ansdell, Scottish Government (online)

Finlay Macleoid (online)

Gillian Campbell-Thow, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Glaschu (online)

Helen McKinnon (online)

Jeff Justice (online)

John Hay (online)

Mairi Buchanan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (online)

Matthew MacIver, University of the Highlands and Islands (in person)

Rob Dunbar, University of Edinburgh (online)

Wilson McLeod (online)

Non-MSP Group Members

Dòmhnall MacNeil, Comunn na Gàidhlig (in person)

Ealasaid MacDonald, MG ALBA (in person)

Iain Morrison, MG ALBA (in person)

Orla MacDonald, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (in person)

Paul Nevin, Highland Council (online)

Shona MacLennan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (in person)

Apologies

Rhoda Grant, MSP

Ariane Burgess, MSP

Kate Forbes, MSP

Calum Munro, Highland Council

Iain MacAulay, Comunn na Gàidhlig

Minutes of Previous Meeting: 22 February 2023

Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Group Membership

The Chair told the group that Jenni Minto and Sarah Boyack had left the group and that Kate Forbes wished to join the group as a Member.

Independent Report on the Consultation on the Scottish Languages Bill

Douglas Ansdell, Scottish Government spoke on the topic of the Independent Report on the Consultation on the Scottish Languages Bill. An overview of consultation responses was provided, and thanks were passed on to those who provided responses. A timeline of work undertaken relating to the Scottish Languages Bill was provided and the Group was told that 750 responses had been received and the independent report was expected to be published on 07 June 2023. The main messages identified through the consultation were that work was needed to take action on Gaelic-medium education (GME), a range of measures for communities with significant numbers of Gaelic speakers, enhanced powers and resources for Bòrd na Gàidhlig and a range of ways in which speakers could be supported were identified.

An overview of the research that had been undertaken by Scottish Government in identifying how to strengthen Scottish Languages was given. This included an audit of where Gaelic had featured in legislation since 1980, and investigations into how these could be strengthened had been carried out and passed on to legal colleagues. It was noted that barriers to success, for example teacher recruitment and continuity of GME, were being considered. These included access to GME, continuity of GME, subject choice, the senior phase, extra-curricular activities, and resources.

Discussion had also been had with colleagues in Welsh Government about their work in strengthening the Welsh Language, including the move to Measures and standards instead of Schemes. An overview of work done around Welsh education was given and Douglas Ansdell told the Group that they had been considering how work done in Wales could offer any solutions to the work being done on Scottish Languages, particularly relating to education and Gaelic Language Plans. He advised that changes in responsibilities relating to GME could impact on the responsibilities of BnG.

Information was provided on the functions and structures of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and how any changes in the support and promotion of Gaelic, as a result of manifesto commitments, would impact on their work.

To conclude, Douglas Ansdell acknowledged that there was still much work to be done and provided a recap of the areas which Scottish Government were considering. The group was told that the Gaelic and Scots Team would seek to provide only advice which would strengthen Gaelic and would be pleased to meet with members to discuss ideas.

The Chair asked about if there would be an opportunity within the Bill to ensure that everyone working in the public sector would be involved in normalising Gaelic development work. Douglas Ansdell responded that this point had been raised through the consultation and that SG was looking at how this is delivered in Wales and how much of an impact their measures for public organisations had on their success.

A question was raised about how to make sure that Gaelic can be used every day, as has been achieved in Wales. Douglas Ansdell told the Group that this point had featured in conversations with colleagues in Welsh Government and that it had come up in consultation responses. He provided some information on Welsh systems and how these could be implemented in Scotland but emphasised that there was a lot of work to do before coming to any conclusions.

Shona MacLennan, Ceannard of Bòrd na Gàidhlig told the group that Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Policy & Resources Committee which had met earlier in the day received an update on the review of the Statutory Guidance for Gaelic Language Plans and Gaelic Education. She highlighted that this is one way of many to strengthen Gaelic's position while awaiting the new Scottish Languages Bill. She encouraged the Group to consider how legislative changes could be made that were not as substantial as a new Act or Bill. Douglas Ansdell told the group that current legislation allows for guidance to be created and for regulations to be produced and that it is hoped that this could be strengthened.

The wide-ranging nature of the consultation was raised, with Douglas Ansdell being asked if further consultation on specific areas should be expected. He responded that further public consultation was not expected but that the next stage of consultation would come in the form of a Parliamentary Committee when the Bill is taken forward as the process will be a draft submitted to a committee of the Parliament.

A question was raised about Gaelic as a subject in high school and why there has been a decline in students choosing it. Douglas Ansdell said that this had featured in consultation responses and that this was a problem they were aware of. He reported that within Scottish Government there were conversations being held around Education Reform and new bodies within a range of Committees. He told that if Education Reform legislation was taken forward that this would likely be presented to Parliament before a Scottish Languages Bill and that they should be followed up consistently.

Shona MacLennan provided information on the work that Bòrd na Gàidhlig has done in responding to consultations and working groups on Education Reform. She raised how important it is that Gaelic education is included in developments from the early stages of any new education bodies, as if this opportunity were missed it would be difficult to rectify. She told the Group that in Bòrd na Gàidhlig's consultation response, they had raised that there was an issue in Gaelic not being chosen as a 1+2 language in primary schools where the high school did not provide Gaelic as a subject. To support development, Bòrd na Gàidhlig had been providing funding to the University of Strathclyde to deliver a Gaelic teaching course.

Gillian Campbell-Thow, headteacher of Glasgow Gaelic School, provided the Group with an explanation of some challenges which exist within Gaelic teaching, including career progression and public perception of Gaelic. She provided an update on the work being done at Glasgow Gaelic School to develop extra-curricular activities to allow children to realise the value of their bilingualism. She thanked those who provide support to those entering a career in Gaelic education.

A point was raised about the importance of building communities in the development of Gaelic and it was asked to what extent this was raised in the consultation. Douglas Ansdell provided information on various ways the Government can support community building.

A question was also raised about the reasons why Gaelic education units are not developing in some areas where requests have been made by parents. Shona MacLennan provided the opinion that a stronger system with more power was needed. It was laid out how the process should look, and the factors that would support this, particularly more rights and more funding.

AOCB

A question was asked about the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and her connection with Gaelic. It was agreed that she would be invited to the next meeting of the Cross-party Group for Gaelic in September.

Shona MacLennan, Ceannard of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, reported on discussions she had with the Cabinet Secretary and the work she has done with Gaelic communities up to this point. The Group was told that herself and the Chair of Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be meeting the Cabinet Secretary the following day.

Date of Next Meeting: 12 September 2023

The Chair told the Group that the next meeting would be the AGM.