

Buidheann Thar-phàrtaidh air Gàidhlig

23 Cèitean 2022 18.30

Geàrr-chunntas

An làthair

Buill

Alasdair Allan, MSP (Cathraiche)

Ariane Burgess, MSP

Dòmhnall Camshron, MSP

Rhoda Grant, MSP

Luchd-aoigheachd le cuireadh

Beathag Mhoireasdan (Eadar-theangair)

Cathy Johnston

Catriona NicIleMhoire

Christopher Lewin

Claire Cullen

Conor Beaton

Craig Horne

Diane Macintyre

Dòmhnall Moireasdan

Donna MacIver

Fiona Killen

Gavin Dewar

Gill Steele

Helen NicFhionghain, Comann nam Pàrant

Helen Macintyre

Iain Craig, Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba

Innes McCuinn, Comann nam Pàrant

Jeff Justice, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann

Jennifer McHarrie, SQA

Joan Esson, HMI

Liradie Allen

Magaidh Wentworth, Comann nam Pàrant

Màiri Bhochanan

Margaret Murray

Wilson MacLeod, Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann

Buill Buidhne nach eil nam BPA

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Ealasaid NicDhòmhnaill, MG ALBA

Iain MacAmhlaigh, Comann na Gàidhlig

Jim Whannel, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Marie Duke, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Orla NicDhòmhnaill, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Shona NicIllinnein, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Leisgeulan

Ruth Watson

Calum Rothach

Mercedes Villalba, BPA

Fàilte

Chur Alasdair Allan, Cathraiche na Coinneimh, fàilte air a h-uile duine dhan choinneamh.

Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneamh mu dheireadh: 09 Gearran 2022

Jenni Minto MSP ri chur ris an liosta de dhaoine a bha an làthair. Dh'aontaich Buill na buidhne ris a' gheàrr-chunntas.

Comann nam Pàrant : Còraichean Cànain ann an Cùmhnant nan Dùthchannan Aonaichte air Còraichean Chloinne (UNCRC)

Chuir Alasdair Allan fàilte air Comann nam Pàrant. Thug Helen NicFhionghain iomradh air Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig (FtG). Thòisich e le 2 aonad ann an 1985 agus tha e air fàs chun na h-ìre is gu bheil 15 a-mach à 32 Ùghdarrasan Ionadail a' toirt seachad FtG, le 61 sgoiltean agus còrr air 5000 sgoilear. Tha taic agus cuideam mòr bho phàrantan air a bhith mar mheadhan air soirbheachas FtG, còmhla ri obair air cùl chùisean bho Chomann nam Pàrant agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Tha Siorrachd Àir a Tuath, Siorrachd Rinn Friù agus Siorrachd Rinn Friù an Ear nan Ùghdarrasan Ionadail ùra le solar FtG agus tha a' Ghàidhealtachd a' leudachadh

nan sgìrean sa bheil e ri fhaighinn sa bhliadhna ri teachd. Bhiodh Comann nam Pàrant air a bhith an dòchas adhartas nas fheàrr aig an ìre seo le àrdachadh mòr san iarrtas.

Ge-tà, cha eil na h-aon ìrean soirbheachais air a bhith ann am foghlam àrd-sgoile, le Gàidhlig mar an aon chuspair a tha ri fhaighinn tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig anns a' mhòr chuid de sgoiltean agus àireamhan de sgoilearan a' dèanamh Gàidhlig agus Àrd-ìre agus mar luchd-ionnsachaidh a' crìonadh.

Tha dìth inbhe oifigeil na Gàidhlig agus frèam-obrach laghail na chois, a' cur bacadh air cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san dùthaich. Thug Achd an Fhoghlam (Alba) 2016 còir do phàrantan foghlam Gàidhlig iarraidh ach chan e còir air Foghlam Gàidhlig e fhèin a tha seo, agus 's urrainn dha seo a bhith na phròiseas duilich do phàrantan a dhol an sàs ann. Feumaidh e prìomh phàrant airson tòiseachadh agus tagradh a dhèanamh, agus feumaidh iad 4 pàistean eile den aon bhuidheann bliadhna a lorg. Faodaidh còignear a bhith na àireamh dùbhlanaich ri choileanadh agus tha am pròiseas mì-chothromach do phàrantan. Tha soirbheachadh air a bhith ann ach bha iad sin a' cur feum air obair shusbainteach bho oifigearan Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Comann nam Pàrant. Chan eil còir ann FtG aig ìre nan tràth-bhliadhnaichean fhaighinn no iarraidh. Tha feum air neartachadh san Stiùireadh Reachdail air Foghlam Gàidhlig agus bu chòir còraichean an leanabha a bhith air an toirt a-steach ann. Chan eil an stiùireadh a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bi solarachadh àrd-sgoile ann, mar a chithear bhon t-suidheachadh ann an Glaschu a tha a' sealltainn gum faodadh teaghlaichean a bhith a' call a-mach.

Tha Comann nam Pàrant den bheachd gum bu chòir còir bhunaiteach a bhith aig pàrantan air Foghlam Gàidhlig agus tha iad an dòchas gum bi Bile Chànanan na h-Alba a' gabhail a-steach na còrach seo agus gun toir i inbhe oifigeil don Ghàidhlig, ga dhèanamh co-ionann ris a' Bheurla.

Tha Comann nam Pàrant air a bhith ann an conaltradh ri buidhnean a tha an sàs ann an Foghlam Gàidhlig agus tha iad air innse gum bu chòir Gàidhlig a bhith air a gabhail a-steach ann an obair clàr-gnothaich ath-leasachadh foghlaim agus obair nam buidhnean ùra bhon toiseach. The feum air taic bho na pàrtaidhean poilitigeach uile gus taic a thoirt do dh'amasan obair Chomann nam Pàrant. Chaidh daingneachadh gu bheil an t-àm ann a-nis dòigh-obrach stèidhichte air còraichean a chleachdadh airson gluasad air adhart leis a' Ghàidhlig agus a fighe a-steach do shiostam foghlaim na h-Alba.

Thuirt Fiona Killen gu bheil tòrr den chànan a thathar a' cleachdadh a thaobh inbhe na Gàidhlig troimh-chèile, gu h-àraidh an coimeas ris a' Chuimris a chleachdar agus dh'iarr i air Buill nam pàrtaidhean poilitigeach a bha an làthair an taic don Ghàidhlig mar chànan oifigeil a dhearbhadh.

Chaidh ceist a thogail am faodadh còmh-dhail a bhith air a gabhail a-steach ann an còraichean chloinne. Dhearbh Helen gu bheil seo cudromach agus gun tèid barrachd còmhraidhean a chumail mu na bhiodh ann.

Thug Jennifer McHarrie, SQA, fios as ùr do Bhuill mu na cuspairean a tha ri faighinn do dh'oileanaich san ìre as àirde. Tha obair a' dol air adhart gus coimhead air dreachan Gàidhlig de theisteanasan agus duaisean adhartais a th' ann mar-thà agus

bu chòir iad sin fhaicinn sna seachdainean a leanas. Tha i toilichte barrachd fios a thoirt seachad mun phuing seo aig an ath choinneamh den bhuidheann.

Dh'fhaighnich Alasdair Allan dè bhiodh 'inbhe oifigeil' a' ciallachadh don chànan, agus dh'aontaich mar Cathraiche na Buidhne e sgrìobhadh chun an Riaghaltais mun bhile agus dè tha seo a' ciallachadh airson inbhe Gàidhlig is Albais.

Dh'fhaighnich Iain MacAmhlaigh am biodh cothrom aig an fheadhainn nach eil a' faighinn àite ann am bun-sgoil 1 ann am FtG a dhol an sàs ann nas fhaide air adhart. Dhearbh Helen gu bheil iad den bheachd nach tig a' chlann seo ann nas fhaide air adhart, leis gur e atharrachadh doirbh a tha seo do theaghlaidhean agus nach eil siubhal air a thabhann dhaibh bhon Ùghdarras Ionadail.

Chomharraich Gill Steele gur e deagh chothrom a th' anns a' bhile ùr a tha ri thighinn airson sealladh farsaing agus àrd-amasachd a thoirt don Ghàidhlig. Rinn i coimeas eadar suidheachadh na Cuimrigh agus na targaidean àrd-amasach aice agus thuirt i nach bu chòir iarraidh air pàrantan a dhol tro na duilgheadasan a tha aca an-dràsta.

Thug Dòmhnall MacGillemoire taic ri obair Chomann nam Pàrant. Thuirt e nuair nach fhaigh clann àite ann an FtG, gu bheil e coltach nach bi an còrr den teaghlach a' dol ann nas motha leis gum bi iad airson a bhith aig an aon sgoil. Mar sin tha e cudromach cuimhneachadh air seo nuair a thathar a' beachdachadh air teaghlaidhean a tha a' call a-mach air FtG. Thog e gum biodh e feumail buidheann a' stèidheachadh airson coimhead air mar a chuidicheas iad luchd-teagaisg a tha airson diofar chuspairean a theagasg tron Ghàidhlig, agus a bhith mothachail air goireasan iomchaidh.

Thuirt Art MacCarraig, ged a tha iarrtasan air FtG mar phàirt de dh'Achd an Fhoghlaim (Alba) 2016, nach eil solar airson sgoiltean Gàidhlig ann, agus gur dòcha gur e seo an t-àm airson a' phuing seo a neartachadh.

Thug Helen NicFhionghain taing don fheadhainn a thog puingean is ceistean agus thug Alasdair Allan taing do Helen airson an taisbeanadh agus thuirt e gum biodh cothroman ann san àm ri teachd beachdachadh air a' bhile ùr.

MG ALBA: Co-ionannachd airson na Gàidhlig ann am Bile Craolaidh Westminster

Chuir Alasdair Allan fàilte air Ealasaid NicDhòmhnail bhon MG ALBA. Thug Ealasaid fios air na còmhraidhean a tha air a bhith aca mun bhile gu ruige seo. Chaidh innse carson a tha an cuspair seo cho cudromach don chànan agus mhinich i an diofar eadar an suidheachadh ann an Alba agus sa Chuimrigh far a bheil an sianal stèidhichte ann an reachdas agus far a bheil an rèiteachadh maoinachaidh aca a' toirt chothroman nach beag dhaibh. Thuirt i gu bheil feum air taic mhòr do na meadhanan Gàidhlig agus gu bheil feum air gun dàil. Thuirt Ealasaid nach eil ach 40% de dhaoine òga a' dol an sàs leis na meadhanan Gàidhlig, agus tha seo air sgàth 's gu bheil an t-uamhas taghaidhean eile aca tro mheadhan na Beurla. Tha MG ALBA airson barrachd a' dèanamh airson an suidheachadh seo a' rèiteachadh ach tha seo gu math doirbh gun maoinachadh ceart a' tighinn thuca. Ann an coimeas, tha buidseat £7.5m aig a' Chuimris air susbaint dhidseatach.

Thug i fios seachad mu na buannachdan nach beag a tha tighinn bho na meadhanan Gàidhlig ach chan urrainnear iad sin a thoirt gu buil gun tuilleadh maoineachaidh. Sheall rannsachadh o chionn ghoirid gu bheil toradh de £1.34 air tasgadh airson gach £1 a thathar a chosg. Tha MG ALBA am beachd gum bu chòir do luchd na Gàidhlig a bhith a' faighinn na susbaint is nan cuspairean a tha iomchaidh airson Gàidhlig a chumail beò anns na coimhearsnachdan aca agus gum bu chòir na meadhanan Gàidhlig a bhith taobh a-staigh inbhe Craoladair Seirbhis Poblach (PSB). Thuirt i cuideachd gum bu chòir cuideigin ainmichte a bhith ann aig a' bheil greim air cùisean Gàidhlig is na meadhanan.

Tha MG ALBA a' sireadh maoineachadh ioma-bliadhna, coltach ris a' mhodail Chuimreach. An-dràsta bidh iad a' faighinn maoineachadh bho bhliadhna gu bliadhna agus chan eil seo iomchaidh gus adhartas a' dèanamh san obair. B' e an t-iarrtas do BhPA taic a thoirt do dh'inbhe reachdail agus maoineachadh iomchaidh.

Thug Ealasaid fios cho cudromach 's a tha taic an luchd-ùidh airson adhartais a dhèanamh leis na meadhanan agus gus na h-amasan aca a choileanadh.

Thog Alasdair Allan ceist mun diofar eadar Gàidhlig agus Cuimris, agus dè tha seo a' ciallachadh gu practaigeach. Thug Ealasaid iomradh air an dòigh maoineachaidh – a bhith taobh a-staigh rèiteachadh maoineachaidh a' cheadachais. Fhuair na Cuimris rèiteachadh 5-bliadhna luach £80m agus £7.5m a bharrachd gach bliadhna. Mhìnich i gur ann mu dheidhinn maoineachadh leantainneach a bha e agus thug i fios air dè a b' urrainn dhaibh dèanamh nan robh seo aca. Chaidh fhaighneachd am bi dad sa bhile mu dheidhinn goireasan ri fhaighinn air-loidhne. Thuirt Ealasaid gum bi an stuth aca a' dol air an iPlayer agus gu bheil tòrr rudan a' dol a-mach tro ùrlaran eile mar Youtube cuideachd, ach dh'aontaich i gu bheil barrachd susbaint a dhìth air na h-ùrlaran seo.

Dh'fhaighnich Jeff Justice mu chothrom air susbaint air an iPlayer taobh a-muigh na Rìoghachd Aonaichte. Chaidh thoirt fa-near gu bheil susbaint ri fhaighinn air Youtube agus bhiodh e math barrachd susbaint a bhith air a chruthachadh leis an neach-cleachdaidh a bhith air a luchdachadh suas agus ri fhaighinn tron àrd-ùrlar seo. Thuirt Alasdair Allan gum faodar cothrom fhaighinn air iPlayer S4C taobh a-muigh na Rìoghachd Aonaichte agus thug Ealasaid iomradh air an airgead aca.

Thug Alasdair Allan taing do dh'Ealasaid airson na h-òraid aice.

GISBE

Thug Shona NicIllinnein fios mu dheidhinn coinneamhan poblach airson Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig 2023-28 a bhios a' dol air adhart sna seachdainean ri tighinn.

Ceann-là na h-Ath Choinneimh

21 Ògmhios 2022

Cross-Party Group on Gaelic

23 May 2022 18.30

Minute

Present

MSPs

Alasdair Allan, MSP (Chair)

Ariane Burgess, MSP

Donald Cameron, MSP

Rhoda Grant, MSP

Invited guests

Beathag Mhoireasdan (Translator)

Catherine Johnston

Catriona Morrison

Christopher Lewin

Claire Cullen

Conor Beaton

Craig Horne

Diane Macintyre

Dòmhnall Morrison

Donna MacIver

Fiona Killen

Gavin Dewar

Gill Steele

Helen McKinnon, Comann nam Pàrant

Helen Macintyre

Iain Craig, Historic Environment Scotland

Innes McQueen, Comann nam Pàrant

Jeff Justice, University of Edinburgh

Jennifer McHarrie, SQA

Joan Esson, HMI

Liradie Allen

Magaidh Wentworth, Comann nam Pàrant

Màiri Buchanan

Margaret Murray

Wilson MacLeod, University of Edinburgh

Non-MSP Group Members

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Ealasaid MacDonald, MG ALBA

Iain MacAmhlaigh, Comann na Gàidhlig

Jim Whannel, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Marie Duke, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Orla NicDhòmhnaill, Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Shona NicIllinnein, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Apologies

There were none.

Welcome

Alasdair Allan, Chair of the Meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: 09 February 2022

Jenni Minto MSP to be added to the attendee list. Members of the group approved the minutes.

Comann nam Pàrant: Language Rights in the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Alasdair Allan welcomed Comann nam Pàrant to the meeting. Helen MacKinnon gave a background on Gaelic Medium Education (GME). It started with 2 units in 1985 and has grown to 15 out of 32 Local Authorities providing GME, with 61 schools and over 5,000 pupils. Support and significant pressure from parents have been instrumental in the success of GME, along with behind the scenes work from Comann nam Pàrant and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. North Ayrshire, Renfrew and East Renfrew are new LAs with GME provision and Highland is expanding the areas in which it is available in the coming year. CnamP would have hoped for greater progress by now with significant increases in demand.

However, there have not been the same levels of success in secondary education, with Gaelic being the only subject available through Gaelic in most schools and falling numbers of pupils sitting Higher Gàidhlig and Gaelic (Learners)

The lack of official status of Gaelic and legal framework that would accompany this, hinders the implementation of Gaelic use in the country. The Education Act

(Scotland) 2016 gave parents the right to request Gaelic Education but not the right to Gaelic Education and it can be a difficult process for parents to enter. It requires a lead parent to initiate and apply, and they are required to find 4 other children of the same year group. 5 can be a challenging number to achieve and the process is unfair to parents. There have been successes, but these required substantial work from officers in Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant. There is no right to access or request GM early years' provision. The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education requires strengthening and the rights of the child should be incorporated within it. The Guidance does not guarantee secondary provision which is illustrated by the situation in Glasgow which shows that families could miss out.

Comann nam Pàrant believe that parents should have a fundamental right to Gaelic Education and hope that the Scottish Languages Bill will include this right and official status for Gaelic which would make it equal with English.

Comann nam Pàrant have been in contact with agencies involved in Gaelic Education and have communicated that Gaelic should be included in the education reform agenda and the new agencies work from the beginning. Support from all political parties is needed to support the aims of Comann nam Pàrant's work. It was emphasised that the time is now to use the rights-based approach to move forward with Gaelic and to embed it in Scotland's education system.

Fiona Killen commented that much of the language used around status of Gaelic is confusing, particularly in comparison that used about Welsh and asked members of political parties present to confirm their support for Gaelic as an official language.

A question was raised whether transport could be included in the rights of the child. Helen confirmed that this is important and that more conversations will be held around what would be included.

Jennifer McHarrie, SQA, updated members on subjects available to students in the senior phase. There is work going on to look at Gaelic versions of existing qualifications and progression awards and these should be seen within the next few weeks. She is happy to give a further update on this point at the next cross-party group meeting.

Alasdair Allan queried what 'official status' would mean for the language, and agreed as Chair of the Group to write to the Government about the bill and what this mean the status for Gaelic and Scots.

Iain MacAulay asked if those who do not get a place in Primary 1 GME have the opportunity to join later in the school career. Helen confirmed that they believe that these children will not join later, because this is a difficult change for families to make for their children and also LAs do not offer transport for them.

Gill Steele highlighted that the new bill coming forward is a great opportunity to give the vision, overview, and ambition to Gaelic. She compared the situation in Wales with its ambitious targets and commented that parents should not be required to go through the hoops they currently do.

Domhnall MacGillemoire supported the work of Comann nam Pàrant. He raised that when a child does not get a place in GME, that it is likely that any following siblings from this family will attend the same school as the eldest. Therefore, it is

important to remember this when considering families missing out on GME. He raised that it would be useful to create a group to look at how to help teaching staff who want to teach different subjects through Gaelic, and to stay aware of relevant resources.

Arthur Cormack raised that, while requesting Gaelic Education is included in the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, the provision of Gaelic Schools is not, and it may be the time to look at strengthening this point.

Helen MacKinnon thanked those who raised questions and points and Alasdair Allan thanked Helen for the presentation and commented that there would be future opportunities to discuss the new bill.

MG ALBA: Parity for Gaelic in Westminster's Broadcasting Bill

Alasdair Allan welcomed Ealasaid MacDonald from MG ALBA. Ealasaid provided information on what discussions they had had about the bill up to this point. She explained why this topic is so important to the language and outlined the difference between the situation in Scotland and in Wales, where the channel is based in statute and their funding settlement offers them significant opportunities. She stated that major support is required for Gaelic media, and it is required urgently. She pointed out that only 40% of young people engage with Gaelic media, due to the range of other options through the medium of English. MG ALBA would like to do more to rectify this situation, but it is difficult without the correct level of funding. In comparison, the Welsh have a budget of £7.5m for digital content.

She provided information about the many benefits of Gaelic media, but these cannot be realised without further funding. Recent research demonstrated that there is a £1.34 return on investment for each £1 spent. MG believes that Gaelic speakers should be provided with content and subjects appropriate for the survival of Gaelic in their communities and that Gaelic media should be within Public Service Broadcaster (PSB) status. She also pointed out that there should be a named person who oversees Gaelic affairs and the media.

MG ALBA is seeking multi-year funding, like the Welsh model. They are currently in receipt of year-by-year funding, and this is not suitable for good progress to be made. The request to MSPs was to support statutory status and appropriate funding.

Ealasaid emphasised the importance of stakeholders supporting the media to make progress with media and to achieve their aims.

Alasdair Allan asked about the difference between Gaelic and Welsh, and what this means practically. Ealasaid referred to the funding mechanism – to be inside the licence funding settlement. The Welsh were in receipt of a 5-year settlement with a value of £80m and an additional £7.5m annually. She explained what they could do with this. It was asked if there were any points in the bill about online resources. Ealasaid noted that their content goes on the iPlayer and that a lot of other resources go out through platforms like Youtube as well, but she agreed that these platforms need more content.

Jeff Justice asked about access to content on the iPlayer outwith the UK. It was noted that there is content available on YouTube and it would be good to see more user-generated content uploaded and available through this platform. Alasdair Allan commented that the S4C iPlayer can be accessed outwith the UK and Ealasaid referred to their funding.

Alasdair Allan thanked Ealasaid for her presentation.

AOCB

Shona MacLennan informed the group that public meetings for the National Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 will take place in the coming weeks.

Date of Next Meeting

21 June 2022