



Pàrantan Gàidhlig Dùn Èideann

Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann & Lodainn)

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Annual Report

Introduction

Comann nam Pàrant Dùn Èideann (CnPDE) is the representative organisation for parents with children at all stages of Gaelic - Medium Education (GME) in Edinburgh and the Lothians. It aims to promote and develop GME throughout the region. All GME parents in Edinburgh and the Lothians are ordinary members of Comann nam Pàrant. The group is part of the national organisation, Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta (CnP Nàiseanta).

Comann nam Pàrant is a constituted voluntary organisation, with its activities funded primarily by Bord na Gàidhlig (BnG). Comann nam Pàrant is managed by a committee, including office bearers. The committee serves for a term of one year before standing down at each AGM. All committee positions are open for election at the AGM.

Comann nam Pàrant held open meetings during 2018 and 2019.

Convenor's Report

Review and Developments June 2018 – May 2019

Demand for (GME) continues to grow in Edinburgh. Numbers entering GME are increasing substantially. With this success comes the issue of matching demand with teacher supply. The imbalance in the teacher/pupil ratio currently apparent within GME continues to have consequences for the quality of the immersion experience. CnPDE has campaigned for strategic decisions regarding the GME workforce to try to make this a priority for Scottish Government (SG), as well as other decision makers. Our focus this year, as in previous years, has been very much geared towards finding a solution to this challenge. In Edinburgh, we

continue to represent parents at Edinburgh Council's Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) to establish a strategic solution for GME development at all levels. Nationally, we continue to work with CnP (Nàiseanta) in discussions with Bòrd na Gaidhlig and Scottish Government

Cròileagan

Cròileagan Dhùn Èideann is made up of three separate groups, each managed by its own committee. Cròileagan play leaders are employed by Edinburgh Council to provide Gaelic activities at the playgroups. The role of these play leaders is crucial in the development of Gaelic throughout the city.

The three Cròileagan groups in Edinburgh are based at, Tollcross, Leith and Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce (TnP). Cròileagan sessions and figures are stable with new families coming almost every week which replaces any that move on to Sgoil-àraich. There are around 120 children regularly attending. The number of sessions has increased from six to seven per week with the addition of a new session at St Peter's Church on Luton place. This session is conducted entirely in Gàdhlig.

Last year the annual report suggested that more work needed to be done to foster and involve Croilegan families in the work of CnPDE . Some efforts have been made to engage with these families but a good deal more needs to be done to make them aware of CnPDE and the work it does on their behalf.

The new committee and the Communications Working Group need to undertake this over the next year.

Edinburgh Council's (CEC) Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) has now been approved and recognises that any expansion of GME will necessitate an expansion of Croilegan sessions in areas of the city where nursery and primary will be delivered.

Comann nam Pàrant Dhùn Èideann GME Expansion Project 2019-2024

The Comann nam Pàrant Dhùn Èideann GME Expansion Project 2019-2024 ('the Expansion Project') was introduced to parents at two open meetings in 2019. This document sets out two project goals and is available on our blog page;

- To work for an annual improvement in the quality of GME provision in Edinburgh from 0-18, using as a best practice guide the Foghlam Alba document: *Advice on Gaelic Education (February 2015)*.
- To work towards the establishment of new accommodation for nursery, primary and secondary GME pupils to ensure GME remains open to all who wish it for their family.

This work has commenced and is being undertaken by four working groups consisting of approximately 30 parent volunteers. Each group has an individual responsible for ensuring the working group meets regularly and functions well and an individual responsible for communications who will ensure that the work of the group is communicated to the other groups, the committee and most importantly to all GME families. They will also ensure that there is an opportunity for all GME families to contribute their views to the Expansion Project.

The working groups are

- Early Years / Primary
- Secondary
- Communications
- Education

Each working group has a specific remit and the Education Working group will act as a steering group for the Expansion Project. The CnPDE committee will have an oversight of the working groups and all proposals will be put to parents at open meetings.

Membership of a working group is voluntary and open to all GME parents.

As part of the Annual report each of the working groups will present an update to the AGM.

Gaelic Implementation Group

CnPDe continues to represent the views of GME families via GIG. GIG is attended by, Convener of Education, councilors, senior council officers, head teachers, GME representatives, BnG representatives, Scottish Government, Oganan representative and other stakeholders. It is chaired by the Gaelic Champion and vice Convener of Education.

GIG meets every three months and each meeting is themed to one of the three priorities in the GLP

- Education
- Arts Culture and Economy
- Corporate

Every meeting also has an educational update.

CnPDE has been very effective in getting GIG into a position where it is not merely discussing what needs to be done to improve Gaelic and GME in Edinburgh but is undertaking that work. This has come about both by encouraging Edinburgh Council to improve its own structures and ensuring that CnPDE representatives are well prepared in advance of the meetings by sending in detailed questions and expecting Edinburgh Council

to provide answers at the meetings. This obviously takes time and effort on our part but it is the best way to ensure GIG functions well and to our benefit.

This has led to the following improvements over the last year

- Appointment of Bethan Owen as QIO for GME
- Appointment of Gaelic Curriculum leader at JGHS
- Increase of GME teaching staff at JGHS
- Approval of GLP
- Approval of and funding for a fulltime Gaelic Development Officer for Edinburgh Council

Finance

Comann nam Pàrant is financed through grant funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and donations from specific fundraising events. Grant funding is extremely specific in nature and in this way we are able to support projects such as Sràdagan and those which involve the wider Gaelic community. Social events involving families may also fall under the Grant remit.

Funding must also cover communication costs incurred through domain hosting, email and printing.

It is also used to present a Gaelic dictionary to all S7 pupils as the leave TnP

The details of the current finances are included in a separate report prepared by our Treasurer, Wilma Laird.

Wilma is standing down as Treasurer and we would like to express our gratitude to her for the many years of hard work she has given.

National Gaelic Organisation

Fiona Stephen has represented CnPDE at meetings of CnP Nàiseanta. We would like to express our gratitude to Fiona for attending meetings on our behalf. This involves commitment to attending meetings mostly in Glasgow and I would suggest to the new Committee that we have a second representative to share the burden of this work. Fiona will present a report on the work undertaken by CnP Nàiseanta.

Conclusion

As Convenor I want to offer my apologies for the length of time there has been since an AGM. We failed to have a Quorum at our AGM this time last year and it was abandoned. Since then the amount of work undertaken left little energy for organising a follow up

meeting. In mitigation I will offer that all work undertaken was done with full knowledge of the committee and was communicated regularly to the parent body.

The increase in the number of parents involved in this work through the Expansion Project should mean that the workload is shared amongst more people.

The next year presents further challenges for CnPDE. Demand for GME continues to grow. As it grows we need to continue to work constructively with Edinburgh Council to ensure delivery and in order to do that we ask for support of parents and carers through attending meetings involvement in the committee and practical offers of support and expertise. This, in combination with a coherent and cohesive approach with full parent consensus remains at the core of any successful campaign.