

Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann is Lodainn)
Meeting – Thursday 23 September 2021

Present:

Saidhbhín Bhreatnach
Rosalind Heron
Orla Hobson
Padraic Kinsella
Kevin Leetion
Sharon May
Seamus Spencer
Fiona Stephen

Apologies:

Harriet Baker
Natasha Lee Walsh
Barbie Lyon

1. Welcome / Fàilte:

- Sharon May welcomed all

2. Minutes of last meeting:

- No comments

3. Letter to City of Edinburgh Council

- This was sent 31 August to Alison Dickie and Ian Perry and can be found here: <https://cnpduneideannblog.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/letter-to-alison-dickie-and-ian-perry-31-08-2021-3.pdf>

4. GIG Update:

- There is a need for some of the information to be sent to us beforehand, for example requesting papers in advance of the education update
- Full GIG update can be found here: <https://cnpduneideannblog.files.wordpress.com/2021/10/gig-minutes-8-september-2021.docx>
- Correspondence with East Lothain Council: Saidhbhín wrote to EL Council in a personal capacity and will share questions and answers with the group – covered skills survey of team, plans to incorporate Gaelic into logo, plans to survey families, and plans to normalise Gaelic, number of children in EL in GME.
- It was noted that there are around 38 children outside City of Edinburgh in GME, with the majority from East Lothian.
- Query around how much GME is part of the Council's plan – it would seem they rely on central Scottish Government budget
- Noted that currently in P1s, 55% of the intake have no Gàidhlig, which is worrying
- Iona Brown setting up a meeting.

5. **Letter to Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills:**

- Letter sent 20 September 2021 and can be viewed here:
<https://cnpduneideannblog.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/letter-to-cabinet-secretary-for-education-20-september-2021-1.pdf>

6. **JGHS letter to Donna MacIver:**

- Currently outstanding – a draft was put together by Johnny and Padraic. Suggestion that CnP should meet with Donna to discuss. CnP mindful that the current situation is not the school's fault and it comes down to staffing and council funding issues.
- Many of the questions regarding JGHS are for the Council to address, such as how to build a team a high school, how to address the issue of higher Gaelic. This is potentially an issue for discussion with Donald MacDonald. CnP would be keen to have figures that can be tracked throughout the year. Further discussion is required around Advanced Highers, especially regarding the options for subjects which have lower uptake / fewer students taking them. **ACTION:** Sharon to respond to Donna and arrange a meeting with Donna at the school (and will mention to Sarah and Donald about this) to see if we can get data.
- Also noted that was no Gaelic substitute if a Gaelic teacher is on sick leave – is replaced with an English teacher. Timetabling is also an issue with Gaelic not being able to be used for subjects such as PE. In addition, if a class has one English medium pupil, the whole class is then taught in English – a better arrangement needs to be in place do this does not happen.
- Unclear how the GME element of JGHS is funded
- More work to be done around how CnP uses GIG to get further information / answers and as an opportunity to challenge Council

7. **Parent Council meeting:**

- All fine. No further update here

8. **Aberdeen GME:**

- Agreed that Comann nam Pàrant must respond to the consultation on the proposed catchment area for Gaelic Medium Education in Aberdeen City. **ACTION:** Fiona will draft and happy to take contributions (will check to see if Brian made progress).
- Aberdeen Council are attempting to withdraw transport and create a different catchment – CnP keen that other Local Authorities do not follow this example (especially with issue in Glasgow where children are not getting a place at school).
- It was noted that in order for a council to listen to any external voice, we need to accentuate that the public are watching their actions and that reputation is at stake – a national movement would be holding them to account. Query as to what scope there is for contacting candidates who took part in hustings.
- One united voice would be preferable

9. **Visit to Darroch:**

- Pending, 29 September 2021 (See email from Sarah – we're unable to see the building but can view plans)

- Laura Stewart has plans

10. Information for new families:

- Agreement that there is a need for two separate documents – one on GME in Edinburgh and one specifically on statutory consultation. **ACTION:** Harriet to work on GME one first and circulate for comment prior to design.

11. Possible JGHS secondary group leading on liaison:

- Sarah noted in her email that we may want a separate group to focus on secondary school aspect. This will require volunteers. **ACTION:** Sharon to follow up by email.

12. What else do we need to do / can do?

- Saidhbhín will share the questions she sent to East Lothian
- CnP to consider if there are questions we also wish to ask West Lothian and Mid Lothian
- CnP to consider including more MSPs, Ccing them into correspondence with Cabinet Secretary as the issue affects their constituents, especially those MSPs who pledged action
- **ACTION:** Kevin, Seamus, Saidhbhín to cultivate conversations with councillors and MSPs, elections in 2022. Share with the group to discuss further. Sharon will check for list of names.
- Communications plan: guidance on wordpress, responding to social media, engaging with Gaelic Language Plans. Also required is a meeting for parents – on history, policy, remit of CnP, emerging themes etc – both for new parents and to re-engage current parents. Consensus to combine this with the AGM. **OUTSTANDING ACTION:** volunteer required to draft ideas for content of meeting
- Suggested AGM date is 15 November 2021, to cover Convenor's report, finance report etc. **ACTION:** Sharon to check with Kevin what need covered in AGM. **This will include parents meeting before the AGM meeting as noted above.**

13. Communication with parents

- Update email to be sent
- New email introducing Comann nam Pàrant
- No further information shared

14. AOB

- School in Nova Scotia – see email update
- BBC interviews - agreed we would ask for more information on these. **ACTION:** Harriet to find out more
- Fiona sending submission for Gaelic plan. Two other meetings with the board, key stakeholders meeting in November, presentation from Prof Ken Muir. If people want to think of anything else they want raised at national forums, please send to Fiona.
- Padraic shared video from Anabella CNP Nàisenta on GME:
https://youtu.be/WB_ya10F0ps

- Next committee meeting Monday 11 October. 7.30pm via Zoom.