

# Gaeilge Iorrais

LIMISTÉAR PLEANÁLA TEANGA

MAIGH EO THUaidH

<b>Preasráiteas</b>  Press Release  11.04.2017	<b>Tuilleadh eolais:</b>  <a href="mailto:gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com">gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com</a>  <b>085 250 3321</b>	*Tá leagan Gaeilge den phreasráiteas seo ar fáil ar leathanaigh 3-4.
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## Gaeilge Iorrais: Who are they & what are they doing?

The government has a new strategy for the Gaeltacht and the Irish language. Under *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*, every Gaeltacht community must now prepare and implement a plan to support and develop Irish language use in their area. If they don't do this, they will lose their Gaeltacht status. This new legislation signals a departure from the historic emphasis on geographic boundaries and puts the onus on each Gaeltacht community to decide for themselves (i) whether they want to remain in the Gaeltacht (ii) and if so, whether they want to come together to prepare and implement an Irish language plan for their area, which will involve making some commitments to Irish language use and development.

Gaeilge Iorrais is responsible for overseeing this process in Maigh Eo Thuaidh (North Mayo Gaeltacht area), in consultation with local communities and various stakeholders. 7,575 people or 70% of the Mayo Gaeltacht population live in this vast area, which spans from Fód Dubh to Béal Deirg, Ceathrú Thaidhg to Dumha Thuama and everywhere in between. Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda, an independent language planning advisor, has been appointed to facilitate and co-ordinate the work required.

A community Gaeltacht survey was undertaken over the last few weeks, with enormous effort from local volunteers and scheme participants. Huge thanks to them and to all who took part. Approximately 1 in 10 participants were chosen at random from the electoral register and in proportion to population spread in the area, with the aim of providing a general representative overview of local experiences and opinions regarding Irish language and Gaeltacht status. An open online version of this survey is now being made available to all living in North Mayo Gaeltacht at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GaeilgeIorrais1> on Gaeilge Iorrais Facebook page or by contacting Gaeilge Iorrais ([gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com](mailto:gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com) 085 250 3321). The results from both surveys will remain separate yet both will inform our language plan.

Furthermore, consultation is underway with other key groups outlined under *Acht na Gaeltachta*. Specific questionnaires for these stakeholders are also being distributed online, with the aim of gaining a clearer understanding of their current situation and needs, so as to make worthwhile recommendations in our language plan. Whether you're a parent, a young person, a teacher, a business owner/service provider, a club/committee member or a concerned member of the community, we ask you get in touch and fill out a short survey for us. We want to hear from you, regardless of whether you speak Irish or not. All questions are in Irish and in English and mostly tick box answers are required. It should only take a few short minutes of your time to contribute to the plan for the future our Gaeltacht.

A series of community consultation workshops will also take place in each parish over the coming weeks, to share information about this process and to gather recommendations from local groups. Check out our Facebook page 'Gaeilge Iorrais' for regular updates and details of these meetings. Community and individual participation is vital to ensure that the plan comes from the people and is founded on their opinions and aims. At the end of the day, the future of the Irish language and the North Mayo Gaeltacht depends on them.

Gaeilge Iorrais believes in a positive future for the North Mayo Gaeltacht and aims to maintain and develop North Mayo as a thriving Gaeltacht area. What do you think? Should we try to maintain our Gaeltacht status? Will we secure the Irish language and our Gaeltacht area for future generations? Can we afford to let our Gaeltacht status go? What are you prepared to do to (i) keep our Gaeltacht status (ii) keep Irish language alive in North Mayo Gaeltacht? It really is decision time for every person living in the North Mayo Gaeltacht. We've reached a point of historic significance regarding our Gaeltacht status and there can be no turning back.

It is hoped that a draft document will be ready for community consultation in the autumn and that our community language plan will be ready for submission to Roinn na Gaeltachta for approval by the end of the year. Following from this, a 7 year implementation programme will commence in 2018, pending plan approval. *Acht na Gaeltachta* affords our community a golden opportunity to shape and sustain our linguistic and Gaeltacht future on our own terms. Is féidir leatsa difríocht mhór a dhéanamh ach is féidir linne, le chéile, an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile. Together we have the power to secure a positive future for our Gaeltacht. **(CRÍOCH/END)**

## **Gaeilge Iorrais: Cé hiad féin agus céard atá á dhéanamh acu?**

Tá straitéis úr ag an rialtas don Ghaeltacht agus don Ghaeilge. De réir *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*, caithfidh chuile phobal Gaeltachta plean teanga a réiteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm chun tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge ina cheantar. Mura ndéantar é seo, tá baol ann go gcaillfear a stádas Gaeltachta. In áit limistéir thírleolaíochta amháin, cuireann an reachtaíocht úr béim ar rogha an phobail chun cinneadh a dhéanamh (i) an bhfuil an pobal ag iarraidh fanacht sa Ghaeltacht agus (ii) má tá, an bhfuil an pobal sásta plean Gaeilge a réiteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm don cheantar, agus seasamh agus tacú leis.

Tá Gaeilge Iorrais ainmnithe mar cheanneagraíocht pleanála teanga sa bpróiseas seo i limistéar Maigh Eo Thuaidh, i gcomhairle le pobail áitiúla agus na páirtithe leasmhara. Tá cónaí ar 7,575 duine nó 70% de dhaonra Ghaeltacht Mhaigh Eo sa cheantar fairsing seo, a shíneann ón bhFód Dubh go Béal Deirg, ó Cheathrú Thaidhg go Dumha Thuama agus chuile áit idir eatartu. Tá an Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda ceaptha mar chomhairleoir neamhspleách chun an obair seo a chomhordú.

Tá suirbhé Gaeltachta pobail ar bun le cúpla seachtain anuas, le comhoibriú ó dhaoine deonacha áitiúla maraon le rannphairtithe na scéimeanna pobail. Tá moladh mór tuillte dóibh siúd agus do na daoine a ghlac páirt ann. Roghnaíodh tuairim is duine as deichniúr go randamach ó chlár na dtoghthóirí, ag tógáil san áireamh an dlús daonra sa gceantar, chun pictiúr a fháil ar thuairimí agus ar thaithí áitiúla i leith na Gaeilge agus an stádas Gaeltachta. Tá leagan oscailte den suirbhé seo ar fáil do na daoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu i limistéar Maigh Eo Thuaidh ag <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GaeilgeIorrais1>, ar leathanach Facebook Gaeilge Iorrais, nó trí teagmháil a dhéanamh le Gaeilge Iorrais ([gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com](mailto:gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com) 085 250 3321). Beidh torthaí an dá shuirbhé neamhspleách óna chéile ach tógfar an dá cheann san áireamh sa bplean teanga.

Anuas ar sin, tá comhairliúchán ar bun le grúpaí sonracha eile atá luaite faoi *Acht na Gaeltachta*. Beidh ceistneoirí faoi leith do na páirtithe leasmhara seo le fáil ar líne, chun

léargas níos soiléire a fháil ar a gcuid riachtanais, sa gcaoi is go mbeidh moltaí fiúntacha dóibh inár bplean teanga. Má tá tú i do thuismitheoir, duine óg, i do mhúinteoir, i mbunghnó/ag soláthair seirbhíse, i do bhall ar chlub/choiste nó duine den phobal, iarann muid ort teagmháil a dhéanamh linn agus suirbhé gearr a líonadh dúinn. Ba bhreá linn cloisteáil uait, fiú muna bhfuil aon Ghaeilge agat. Tá na ceisteanna uilig i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla agus níl le déanamh, den chuid is mó, ach tic a chur sa mbosca. Ní chóir go dtógfadh sé ach cúpla nóiméad de do chuid ama chun ionchur a bheith agat sa bplean teanga do thodcháí ár nGaeltacht.

Eagrófar sraith ceardlanna pobail i ngach paróiste sna seachtainí atá amach romhainn, chun eolas faoin bpróiseas a roinnt agus chun moltaí a bhailiú ó ghrúpaí áitiúla. Coinnigh súil ar ár leathanach Facebook 'Gaeilge Iorrais' le haghaidh fógraí agus sonraí na gcruinnithe seo. Tá rannpháirtíocht an duine agus an phobail fíor-thabhachtach chun a chinntiú go dtagann an pleán ón bpobal aníos agus go bhfuil sé bunaithe ar a dtuairimí agus aidhmeanna. Ag deireadh an lae, braitheann todhcháí na teanga Gaeilge i limistéar Maigh Eo Thuaidh orthu.

Creideann Gaeilge Iorrais, má oibríonn muid le chéile, go mbeidh todcháí dearfach i ndán do limistéar Maigh Eo Thuaidh mar cheantar Gaeltachta. Céard a cheapann tusa? Ar chóir dúinn ár stadas Gaeltachta a choinneáil? An gcoinneoidh muid an teanga Gaeilge agus ár nGaeltacht slán do na glúine atá le teacht? An féidir linn ár stadas Gaeltachta a chailleadh? Céard atá tusa sásta a dhéanamh chun (i) ár stadas Gaeltachta a choinneáil agus (ii) an teanga Gaeilge a choinneáil beo i limistéar Maigh Eo Thuaidh? Tá uair na cinniúna buailte linn agus tá rogha le déanamh ag chuile dhuine.

Tá súil againn go mbeidh dréacht-cháipéis dár bplean teanga réidh le cur faoi bhráid an phobail sa bhfómhar agus go mbeidh sé críochnaithe le cur chuig Roinn na Gaeltachta ag deireadh na bliana. Ag leanacht uaidh seo, tosóidh pleán gníomhaíochta seacht mbliana i 2018, má ghlactar leis an bplean. Cuireann *Acht na Gaeltachta* deis faoi leith ar fáil don phobal dlús a chur faoin bpleanáil teanga ar ár dtéarmaí féin. Is féidir leatsa difríocht mhór a dhéanamh ach is féidir linne, le chéile, an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile.

## **Críoch**