Gaeilge Iorrais

LIMISTÉAR PLEANÁLA TEANGA MAIGH EO THUAIDH

Preasráiteas	**Tuilleadh eolais:**
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*Tá leagan Gaeilge den phreasráiteas seo ar leathanaigh 4-5

Decision time for Gaeltacht schools & communities

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 development plan for their area. Beidh stádas Gaeltachta ag brath air sin, seachas ar limistéir thíreolaíochta as seo amach. *Acht na Gaeltachta* also presents enormous opportunities for each community to shape and sustain their linguistic and Gaeltacht future on their own terms.

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. For example, a community Gaeltacht survey, information campaign and a series of workshops will be taking place from February onwards. It goes without saying that community and individual

participation is vital to ensure that the plan comes from the people and is founded on their opinions and aims. Is faoin bpobal atá sé cinneadh a dhéanamh i leith thodhchaí na Gaeltachta. At the end of the day, the future of the Irish language and the North Mayo Gaeltacht depends on them.

This process is directly linked with the recent *Policy on Gaeltacht Education (2017-2022)* which outlines the new requirements for status as a 'scoil Ghaeltachta' or Gaeltacht school. Schools have had and continue to have a huge impact on the Irish language in the Gaeltacht and beyond. Nevertheless, schools in Gaeltacht areas face many unique challenges. Furthermore, a considerable number of Gaeltacht schools do not operate solely through the medium of Irish and/or are located in areas where English language use is widespread. Currently, approximately 76% of primary schools in Gaeltacht areas self-report that they operate as Gaeilge amháin.

Until the publication of this new policy last October, following extensive research and public consultation, 'scoil Ghaeltachta' was determined as any school located within official Gaeltacht boundaries. Now, however, Gaeltacht school status will require that (i) a two-year total-immersion programme is implemented in the infant cycle during which no English will be taught (ii) all subjects are taught through the medium of Irish (iii) all school business is conducted as Gaeilge. According to national and international research, the many advantages of this immersion education model include cognitive advantages and greater academic success, extra employment and economic opportunities as well as further linguistic, social and communicative benefits of fluency in an additional language. Moreover, the Educational Research Institute in Ireland reports that the standard of English and maths in Irish-medium primary schools is well above the national average (further info & research available on www.gaelscoileanna.ie).

This new policy will be rolled out from September 2017. Schools will have a period of up to 5 years to qualify and extra resources and supports will be provided for those schools seeking to maintain/obtain 'Gaeltacht' status. All

Gaeltacht schools are required to consult with their local community to discuss these changes and make a decision together regarding their future.
This decision regarding Gaeltacht status must be carefully considered and shared with the entire and wider school community.

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. Schools and the education system alone cannot secure the future of the Irish language or Gaeltacht status. What do you think? Should we try to maintain our Gaeltacht status? An gcoinneoidh muid an Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht slán? Will we secure the Irish language and our Gaeltacht area for future generations? Can we afford to let our Gaeltacht status go? Tá rogha le déanamh ag gach duine anois. So it really is decision time for every person living in the North Mayo Gaeltacht, tá uair na cinniúna buailte linn. We've reached a point of historic significance regarding our Gaeltacht status and there can be no turning back.

What can you do? Whether you're a (future) parent, a student, a teacher, a cainteoir dúchais, or a concerned member of the community, we ask you to déan do mhachnamh féin, have a think about this and decide what you want. Please come along to our public information meeting in Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead on **Monday 27th February 2017 at 7.30pm** to hear more from a panel of speakers on this and have your say. Fáilte roimh gach duine. Get in touch with us at gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com (085 250 3321) chun breis eolais a fháil nó chun spéis a chlárú linn. Check out our Facebook page for regular updates.

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.

End / Críoch

Cruinniú Eolais faoin Oideachas Gaeltachta i Maigh Eo Thuaidh: Uair na cinniúna buailte linn?

Tá reachtaíocht úr ag an rialtas don Ghaeltacht agus don Ghaeilge. Anois, caithfidh chuile phobal Gaeltachta plean teanga a réiteach agus a chur i bhfeidhm chun tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge sa cheantar. Mura ndéantar é seo, tá baol ann go gcaillfear aitheantas Gaeltachta. Chun fanacht sa Ghaeltacht agus chun a stádas Gaeltachta a choinneáil, caithfidh gach limistéar Gaeltachta a léiriú go bhfuil iarrachtaí ar siúl acu an Ghaeilge a chothú agus a neartú, de réir *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*. Beidh stádas Gaeltachta ag brath ar na critéir sin, seachas ar limistéir thíreolaíochta amháin as seo amach. Mar sin féin tá i bhfad níos mó i gceist leis seo ná pleananna teanga agus staitisticí teanga amháin. Cuireann *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012* deiseanna ar fáil do phobail guth agus ról níos larnaí a bheith acu sa phróiseas pleanála teanga.

Tá Gaeilge Iorrais ainmnithe mar cheanneagraíocht pleanála teanga i limistéar Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh faoi *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*, a chiallaíonn go bhfuil muid freagrach as (i) an próiseas a stiúradh sa limistéar seo agus (ii) plean teanga a réiteach don cheantar Gaeltachta seo i bpáirt leis an bpobal agus le páirtithe leasmhara an cheantair. Ceapadh an Dr Laoise Ní Dhúda mar chomhairleoir neamhspleách chun cuidiú leis obair seo a dhéanamh. Tá dlús á chur faoin obair agus an taighde mar chuid de le gairid. Mar shampla, tá suirbhé Gaeltachta á reáchtáil i measc an phobail faoi láthair, tá feachtas eolais faoi lán seoil agus tá tuilleadh cruinnithe comhairliúcháin le páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla ar na bacáin. Tá rannpháirtíocht an duine agus an phobail lárnach sa phróiseas seo. Is faoin bpobal atá sé cinneadh a dhéanamh i leith thodhchaí na Gaeltachta.

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. Is iad aidhmeanna 'Gaeilge Iorrais' (i) Gaeltacht Mhaigh Eo Thuaidh a chothú agus a fhorbairt ar bhonn rannpháirtíoch (ii) an Ghaeilge a choinneáil beo sa limistéar agus (iii) ár stádas Gaeltachta a choinneáil faoi *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012*.

Le bunú Gaeilge Iorrais agus don chéad uair i stair na Gaeltachta fairsinge seo, tá rannpháirtíocht leathan agus comhoibriú ar bun idir eagraíochtaí agus paróistí éagsúla an limistéir ar mhaithe le cúrsaí pleanála teanga. Tá tús iontach curtha leis an obair seo anois agus tá súil ag Gaeilge Iorrais go leanfaidh rannpháirtíocht agus tacaíocht an phobail mar chuid lárnach den phróiseas dúshlánach seo. Táimid dearfach, má oibríonn muid le chéile, go mbeidh dea-thoradh ar ár n-iarrachtaí. Is féidir linn an t-uafás a bhaint amach má sheasann muid le chéile.

Leis sin, tá an córas oideachais luaite go sonrach mar réimse gnímh faoi *Acht na Gaeltachta 2012* agus sna sála ar an *bPolasaí úr don Oideachas Gaeltachta (2017-2022)*, is léir anois go bhfuil nasc idir an próiseas pleanála teanga atá á stiúradh againn, feasacht a ardú faoi na hathruithe seo, agus an próiseas chun aitheantas a fháil mar scoil Ghaeltachta. Tá Gaeilge Iorrais ag triail a bheith réamhghníomhach agus an plé a thosú ar an ábhar seo i measc an phobail. Chuige sin, tá cruinniú eolais eagraithe againn do dheireadh na míosa seo. Tá rogha le déanamh ag chuile dhuine anois. Tá uair na cinniúna buailte linn. An gcoinneoidh muid an Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht slán?

Má tá tú óg nó sean, i do thuismitheoir, i do mhúinteoir, mar chainteoir dúchais nó foghlaimeoir, iarann muid ort do mhachnamh féin a dhéanamh faoin ábhar seo. Tar chuig ár gcruinniú poiblí chun tuilleadh a chloisteáil faoi seo **Dé Luain, 27 Feabhra 2017 ag 7.30i.n. in Áras Inis Gluaire, Béal an Mhuirthead**. Labhróidh painéal cainteoirí faoin ábhar seo ag tús na hócáide agus beidh deis ag an bpobal ceisteanna a chur ansin. Tá fáilte roimh chuile dhuine. Is féidir ríomhphost a sheoladh chuig gaeilgeiniorras@gmail.com chun breis eolais a fháil nó chun spéis a chlárú linn.