

# Naidheachdan

Edinburgh Gaelic News

August 2010, Issue 4

## Comann nam Pàrant

[www.gaelic-education.org](http://www.gaelic-education.org)

Next meeting:

**7pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

137 Dundee Street (above Fountainbridge Library)

All parents are very welcome to attend this meeting.

[committee@gaelic-education.org](mailto:committee@gaelic-education.org)

## Comann nam Pàrant Update

Parents will be aware that in June Edinburgh Council prepared a report proposing options for the development of Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh. Before the summer holidays, CnamP held two meetings to discuss our response as parents to these proposed options.

At one of these meetings, a project group was established to work towards the goal of ensuring that any revised proposals prepared by the Council reflected the views of parents.

Three further progress meetings have been held over the course of the summer, which have all been well attended by parents. A summary of progress is given below.

All minutes from meetings and reports referred to are available for all parents to read. If you have not already received them on email, you can have copies emailed by contacting: [committee@gaelic-education.org](mailto:committee@gaelic-education.org). If you do not have access to email, printed copies can be provided - phone Marion Thompson: 07968 405 670.

At our meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July, we formally agreed the aim of our project – that the revised Council report should reflect the views of the parent group; i.e.:

- The establishment of a dedicated GME primary school with associated GME nursery provision, wraparound care and a dedicated Cròileagan space.

- The further development of GME at James Gillespie's High School.

At this meeting we also agreed that representatives from CnamP would meet with Council officials to discuss questions raised by parents on the initial Council report. This meeting with the Council was very constructive, with the key outcomes being in summary:

At secondary level, it was agreed that any proposed changes should be shelved for the foreseeable future. The Council is interested in discussing methods of enhancing GME provision at James Gillespie's High School.

At primary level, there are two potential options:

- A new dedicated GME primary school on the site of the former Bonnington Primary School, to include a nursery. There are no other possible sites for a dedicated GME school. Tollcross is not an option as a site for a dedicated school, as it was confirmed that the school will be required to meet the needs of mainstream education in central Edinburgh.
- The retention of the Tollcross unit, as a single-class stream serving, for new intakes, the Western half of Edinburgh only, with expanded nursery provision in the playground at Tollcross. The establishment of a new unit at Leith Walk Primary School, without a nursery, serving families in the Eastern half of Edinburgh starting with a P1 intake only.

It was the unanimous view of our meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> August that in order to safeguard the excellent standard of education that our children receive, and to keep our community together, the preferred option is that of a **dedicated GME primary school**.

There were a number of reasons for this conclusion, which include:

- The real practical difficulties of managing two sites so far apart (particularly when one site has no nursery) - shared resources, transport, etc.
- The richer educational experience and enhanced fluency that can be achieved in a larger school, as opposed to smaller units.

- The attractiveness to teachers of a dedicated school - increased teacher supply and better continuity.
- The community focus and identity that would be achieved with a dedicated school.



To clarify our views, we have since submitted two formal reports to the Council:

### Response to the proposals to develop GME GME development: financial implications

The reaction from the Council to our reports has been favourable, and we are hopeful that the Council will take our views on board in drafting their updated proposals. The updated proposals will be available on the Council's website on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and will be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 7th September. A final decision on the detail of the consultation may not be made until after the Scottish Government spending review is complete, later this year.

The updated proposals will be discussed at our next meeting: **7pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** at 137 Dundee Street (above Fountainbridge Library).

Please come along and find out what you can do to help the campaign for our new school:

**Sgoil Ghàidhlig Dhùn Èideann.**

### Fàilte gu Bunsgoil Crois na Cìse, Mrs Brown!

All Tollcross parents are pleased to welcome Mrs Alice Brown, our new acting head teacher. Mrs Brown comes to us from Sciennes Primary, and we all look forward to getting to know her over the coming months.

### Saturday Morning Football

Football coaching has begun for the new term – Saturday mornings at 9.30am-10.30am. Primaries 1,2,3 meet at the north end of the Meadows near the junction of Leven Terrace. All girls and boys are very welcome – it would be great to see some of the new P1s joining the teams!

If you are a parent who would like to become involved in coaching we would also be delighted to see you.

More details from Stephen Webster  
[sjwebster@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sjwebster@blueyonder.co.uk)  
07766 098941

Cròileagan has started up again for the new school year. We are delighted to welcome back all our members, especially the tiny new additions! Cròileagan meets on a Monday at Corstorphine Youth Centre 10am-12.30pm, and on a Wednesday and Friday at Tollcross Community Centre 9am-11.30am.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please pass on our details, or take some of our leaflets to distribute.

Cròileagan has received a grant this year to enable us to fund childcare for parents who would like to take daytime Gaelic classes. We will be setting up classes at beginner and post-beginner level, to start this term. The Council also runs classes at Tollcross, and the grant can be used to pay for crèche usage if you wish to take these Council classes.

The funding for childcare can be used by **all** parents of young children who wish to learn Gaelic. **Please contact us if you are interested:**

[croileagantollcross@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:croileagantollcross@hotmail.co.uk)

Funding for childcare is provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.



### Iomairt Ghàidhlig Dhùn Èideann

A new part-time Gaelic development officer has been appointed by the Edinburgh Gaelic Initiative. We are pleased to welcome **Angela NicEachainn** who started in post in August. Angela, who has been working in Gaelic broadcasting for many years, will be working closely with the Iomairt and the Edinburgh Gaelic community to enhance Gaelic in our city.

**Naidheachdan** is produced by Comann nam Pàrant and the Cròileagan to provide information for all parents and friends of Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh.

All contributions are very welcome (in English or Gaelic). Please send contributions to Marion Thompson:

[marionthompson@live.com](mailto:marionthompson@live.com)

07968 405 670