



**Report of  
Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District  
Council**

Report of Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Monday 24th February 2020 in the Council Offices, Cookstown.

**Attendees Members:** Cllr John McNamee (Chair), Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Wilbert Buchanan, Cllr Sean McGuigan, Cllr Ian Milne, Cllr Trevor Wilson.

**Officers:** Tony McCance, Déaglán Ó Doibhlin.

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Adrian McCreesh	
2.0	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Cllr Martin Kearney declared an interest in Pobal Ghleann na Banna, Clady Cllr Sean McGuigan declared an interest in Naomh Ciarán	
3.0	<b>Minutes of previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019.</b>	
	A report of the minutes of the previous meeting of 21st October 2019 was presented to the Working Group. Cllr Wilson asked for clarification as to why the Bursary scheme was being advertised before being ratified at full Council. T McCance stated it had been advertised, subject to funding approval and that it was not the intention to be non compliant with Council process, but to ensure that information was	

	brought to the attention of potential applicants in a timely fashion and to allow adequate time for applications to be prepared and returned. Cllr Wilson asked if members were satisfied to proceed on this basis. Councillors agreed that requests should be brought to Council a month earlier in future to allow adequate time for full council approval before publicly advertising the Regional and Minority Language Bursary Programme.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Seachtain na Gaeilge update</b>	

	<p>D Ó Doibhlin presented a report to councillors outlining the progress of the Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020 preparations in Mid Ulster. 15 expressions of interest have been received from a variety of groups across the district. Officers will now assess the proposals in advance of any events being undertaken and supported.</p>	<p>D. Ó Doibhlin</p>
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	<table><tr><th>Iarrthóir Applicant</th><th>Tionscadal agus Achoimre Project Title and Summary Description</th></tr><tr><td>Granaghan Women’s Group Swatragh</td><td>Céad Míle Fáilte Irish Language Celebration Event</td></tr><tr><td>GS an tSeanchaí Magherafelt</td><td>Ceol Music classes and Instruments</td></tr><tr><td>Gaelscoil na Speiríní Ballinascreen</td><td>Ceardlann léitheoireachta le Máire Zepf Book Reading and Creative Workshop</td></tr><tr><td>Desertmartin GAC</td><td>Irish Language Day/Culture Night</td></tr><tr><td>St. Mary’s P.S. Ballinascreen</td><td>Lá Spraoi Irish Language Activity Day</td></tr><tr><td>CCÉ OanG &amp; CE Coalisland</td><td>Feis Oileán agus Cluaine Coalisland/Clonoe Feis</td></tr><tr><td>CLG Naomh Colm Cille Coalisland</td><td>Dianchúrsa leath-lae Half Day Intensive Course</td></tr><tr><td>Coláiste Chiaráin Ballygawley</td><td>Seachtain na Gaeilge i Naomh Ciarán Irish Language Celebration Event</td></tr></table>	Iarrthóir Applicant	Tionscadal agus Achoimre Project Title and Summary Description	Granaghan Women’s Group Swatragh	Céad Míle Fáilte Irish Language Celebration Event	GS an tSeanchaí Magherafelt	Ceol Music classes and Instruments	Gaelscoil na Speiríní Ballinascreen	Ceardlann léitheoireachta le Máire Zepf Book Reading and Creative Workshop	Desertmartin GAC	Irish Language Day/Culture Night	St. Mary’s P.S. Ballinascreen	Lá Spraoi Irish Language Activity Day	CCÉ OanG & CE Coalisland	Feis Oileán agus Cluaine Coalisland/Clonoe Feis	CLG Naomh Colm Cille Coalisland	Dianchúrsa leath-lae Half Day Intensive Course	Coláiste Chiaráin Ballygawley	Seachtain na Gaeilge i Naomh Ciarán Irish Language Celebration Event	
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	Cairde Uí Néill Coalisland	Imeachtaí SnaG Seachtain na Gaeilge Events		
	An Carn Maghera	Imeachtaí Éagsúla Month long Programme of Events		
	Pobal Ghleann na Banna Clady	Naomh Pádraig @Naomh Muire Music Event		
	Campa Chill Dreas Kildress	Imeachtaí Lá le Pádraig Irish Language Activity Day for Children		
	Naíscoil na Speiríní Ballinascreen	Léitheoireacht sa Leabharlann Reading Event in the Library		
	Gaelscoil na Speiríní Ballinascreen	Lá Gaelach agus Cumann Iarscoile Irish Language Day and Afterschool Club		
	CLG Mícheál Daibhéid Swatragh	Spórt agus Teanga Sport and Language Project		
	Cllr Wilson stated that it was good to see a spread of activities across the District			

5.0	<b>Signage Programme update</b>	
	<p>T. McCance provided an update on the progress of the signage programme. With regard to road signage, since the last meeting 31 applications for dual language signage have been received – all requests were for the Irish language. 24 surveys have been completed and 18 surveys are ongoing. Procurement and installation of December approved signage is up to date, January approved signage will be complete by the end of next week (week ending Fri 6 March), and February approved signage will be delivered by the end of March for installation in April. Vandalised signs continue to be cleaned or replacements ordered as and when these are identified. All incidents continue to be reported to the PSNI.</p> <p>T. McCance advised the Working Group that internal building signage for Arts and Culture venues was currently in the process of being scheduled with procurement division through Technical Services and was reliably informed that the procurement would be completed by the end of March. Cllrs Milne and McNamee requested that a timeline be provided for internal signage in Council buildings as they were concerned with the length of time the process was taking. Cllr McPeake noted a new English only sign had been erected in Polepatrick Cemetery and asked for clarification of the bilingual policy in this instance. T. McCance stated that he would make contact directly with Property Services to ascertain the nature of the new signage and to determine if there was a requirement for bilingual treatment.</p>	T. McCance
6.0	<b>Irish Language Programme Ulster Scots Language and cultural activity update</b>	
	<p>D. Ó Doibhlin provided the meeting with an update on the Irish Language Programme with the following information:</p> <p><b>Opportunities to Learn:</b> Monthly Tús / Nasc Bootcamps continue to be popular with the public and are attracting large numbers on the Hill of the O'Neill. Adult night classes continue at 7 locations across the district.</p> <p><b>Activity Funding</b> Most activity has at this point been completed without issue. It is expected that all 2019/20 activity will complete on budget by the end of March.</p>	T. McCance, D. Ó Doibhlin

	<p><b>Primary School Project</b> This project is nearing completion but with some delays due to unavailability of tutors in certain areas..</p> <p><b>RML Bursary Scheme</b> The 2020/21 Bursary scheme is now open to applicants from Mid Ulster – application forms are available online and from main offices with a deadline of 4pm on the 27th March 2020.</p> <p><b>Irish Language Activity Grant Scheme</b> This scheme is now open to applicants seeking to develop Irish language activities in Mid Ulster in 2020/21. Application forms are available online with a deadline of 4pm on the 27th March 2020.</p> <p>T. McCance provided the meeting with an update on the Ulster Scots Programme with the following information:</p> <p>A Council funded Ulster Scots language course was delivered at two locations in the district, with 16 attending at the Hill of the O'Neill in Dungannon and 32 at the Bridewell in Magherafelt.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>A.O.B.</b>	
	<p>Cllr McPeake asked what arrangements were in place for the delivery of Irish language tours at Council facilities. He had been approached by a local Gaelscoil in Ballinascreen who were keen to take part in the opening of the new Davagh Dark Skies facility. The local Irish language community also wanted to know if tours would be available in Irish. Cllr McPeake also asked if a bilingual service could be provided for visitor sites across the district. Cllr Milne agreed and asked if it would be possible to formalise and advertise such a service?</p> <p>T. McCance informed the meeting that Irish language officers currently provide that service on an ad hoc basis and that he would take advise with regard to the Davagh opening and the provision of ongoing bilingual tour service, but also asked members to be mindful of the staffing resources available to deliver such tours.</p>	

	<p>Cllr McNamee registered his concern at the current trend to drop Irish from the secondary curriculum, stating that this was leaving students in areas such as Cookstown without access to the Irish language.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson asked for clarification as to whether the Brexit process will have any impact on the legal standing of indigenous languages and Council's obligations in that regard. D. Ó Doibhlin replied that he presumed this not to be the case as The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which places language duties on local government emanates from the Council of Europe rather than the European Union. T McCance agreed to seek clarification and report back to members on the impact of Brexit on the support of indigenous languages.</p>	
<p><b><i>Meeting concluded at 6.40pm</i></b></p>		

**Reports of Working Groups:** Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on [committees@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:committees@midulstercouncil.org) with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting



