

Gael-Ionad Uí Néill

(Irish Language Community Hub)

Presentation to MUDC
Thursday 15 Feb 2024

Cairde Uí Néill
Teanga Bheo, Pobal Beo



Cé hiad Cairde Uí Néill?

(Who are Cairde Uí Néill?)

- Irish Language Voluntary community Group
- Founded 1992
- Charities Commission Registered 2016
- Serving Coalisland/Clonoe Parishes & Surrounding Areas in Mid Ulster



Stair Chairde Uí Néill?

(Where have we come from?)

Irish Medium Education (IM):

- Established first Irish Language School in Tyrone 1992
- Sustained Gaelscoil Uí Néill financially for 3 years via fundraising until the Nursery and Primary school received official recognition from Dept. Of Education
- Continued to provide Financial Support for Irish Medium Education i.e. purchase of classroom mobiles and facilities
- Developed Prenursery (Naíscóil Bheag) and Social Services registered Afterschools (Iarscoil) services providing employment for 3 full-time workers - eg

Community Engagement:

- Operating in an area of social deprivation, Cairde Uí Néill collaborates with the Neighbourhood Renewal initiative to deliver Irish Language Classes aimed at improving outcomes for residents within the community.

Stair Chairde Uí Néill?

(Where have we come from?)

- **Expansion of Objectives:**

- Over time, Cairde Uí Néill broadened its goals to encompass the promotion of the Irish language for learners & speakers at all levels across the local community. Irish Language Development Officer (ILDO) employed under the Foras na Gaeilge Irish in the Community Schemes:
- Scéim Pobal Gaeilge (SPG) 2011-2020
- Scéim Forbartha Líonra Gaeilge (SFLG) 2021-present

- **Accountability and All-Ireland Recognition!**

- The ILDO's work overseen by Cairde Uí Néill sub-committee & monitored/reported to Foras na Gaeilge on a quarterly basis.
- Cairde Uí Néill submits comprehensive reports to the annual Comórtas Ghlór na nGael All-Ireland competition, where it has received National Prizes for its quality, breadth, and sustainability in local provision.



Cad é a dhéanann muid? Cúram Leanaí (What do we provide? Child Provision)

- **An Náiscoil Bheag** – Prenursery for 3 year olds
- **Iarscoil Uí Néill** - Afterschool for primary age pupils – registered and inspected by Social Services
- **Other Support Initiatives:**
 - 'An Club Bricfeasta' - Breakfast Club
 - Maidin Caife – Coffee mornings for Parent & Toddlers
- **Cultural and Educational Events:**
 - Feis Oileáin agus Cluaine – Primary and Secondary school levels
 - Tuairimí debating competition
 - An Rang is Gaelaí - The most Irish speaking Class
 - Scoil Spreagtha – ILDO working in partnership with Gael Linn across local Primary schools



Cad é a dhéanann muid? - Idir Shean & Óg

(What do we provide? Both Young and Old)

Cultural and Educational Events for Youth:

- Collaborate with Fóram na nÓg - youth club development / adventure days / Youth Leader Development to enhancing young people's recreational opportunities through Irish
- Lá Gaeilge at local GAA clubs' summer camps
- Campa Samhraidh Uí Néill - 2 week All-Irish Summer camp
- Club Scrúduithe - Exam classes and prep for local GCSE and AS/A Level students
- Cainteanna agus Forbairt Pearsanta an Duine – youth talks and presentations on areas such as Online Safety etc.





Cad é a dhéanann muid? - Idir Shean & Óg

(What do we provide? Both Young and Old)

- **Community Engagement and Adult Learning:**

- Adult learner classes and strong ties with Ulster University Diploma/Degree/Masters courses in the Irish Language
- Gaeilge sa bhaile – Irish in the Home classes for families of pupils in IM schools and wider afield
- Pop Up Gaeltacht, Conversation Circle, Quizzes & Guest Lectures
- Club Amhránaíochta Singing club, SIÚIL Walking Club, Léigh Leat Reading Group, An Paidrín Prayer group
- Trips to the Gaeltacht regions

- **Family and Community Events:**

- Cairde Uí Néill organizes family-oriented events, such as children's discos, dinners for religious ceremonies, street festivals like Féasta Sráide, and St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Santa Dash
- Family picnic days, Interactive workshops such as Irish Harp Day and Family Storytelling events with children's writers such as Máire Zephr



Cad a dhéanann muid? Pobal na Gaeilge

(What do we provide? Local Community)

- **Promotion of Irish in the community:**

- GAA Forum & Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha
- Established Lá na Gaeilge at Fleadh Thír Eoghain with Coalisland/Clonoe Comhaltas
- ILDO has strong working ties with Council Irish Language Officers
- Gradaim Gnó - Irish in the business community



Srianta ar ár gcuid Solathair?

(Challenges to overcome?)

Deficiencies/Inefficiencies in Current Service Provision:

- Lack of Permanent Facility
- Restricted Class Availability & Inadequate ICT and internet access
- Venue Limitations for Events
- Youth Club Challenges
- Examination Preparation Constraints
- Accessibility Issues with the office for the Language Development Officer
- Despite these challenges, Cairde Uí Néill remains proud of its achievements in service provision, community uptake, program visibility, and outreach to users of all ages

Cad chuige 'Gael Ionad Uí Néill'?

(Why do we need the Irish Language Community Hub?)

Impact of no new centre!

- Risk of Programmes Ceasing due to closer of current facilities on Gaelscoil Uí Néill once new school opens in Gortgonis
- Youth Club Constraints: Lack of a central facility will leave youth provision unfulfilled despite high demand.
- Adult Language Class Challenges
- Accessibility Concerns : Current office facilities for the Language Development Officer are inaccessible, hindering community access to support services; new facilities at the proposed site would alleviate these concerns and improve community access.

How the centre helps the community!

- Addressing Deprivation in location featured in the top 10 deprivation areas' of NI
- Health and Environmental Activities
- Support Services: vital support for parents and young children, addressing isolation issues, especially among single-parent families.
- Boosting Confidence: Irish language engagement boosts self-esteem and confidence, with the Lárionad serving as a hub to combat deprivation in the community.
- Positive Impact of New Gaelscoil: The proximity of the new Gaelscoil to the Lárionad site will further contribute to reducing deprivation figures in the area.
- Combating Loneliness & Mental Health: range of activities on offer will combat depression, raise self-esteem, and foster friendships, expanding participation.
- Affordable Childcare: Naíscóil Bheag and Iarscoil provide low-cost childcare for low-income families in the area, further addressing socio-economic challenges.
- Forms part of the Councils strategy

Gael-Ionad Uí Néill - ár dTochaí!?

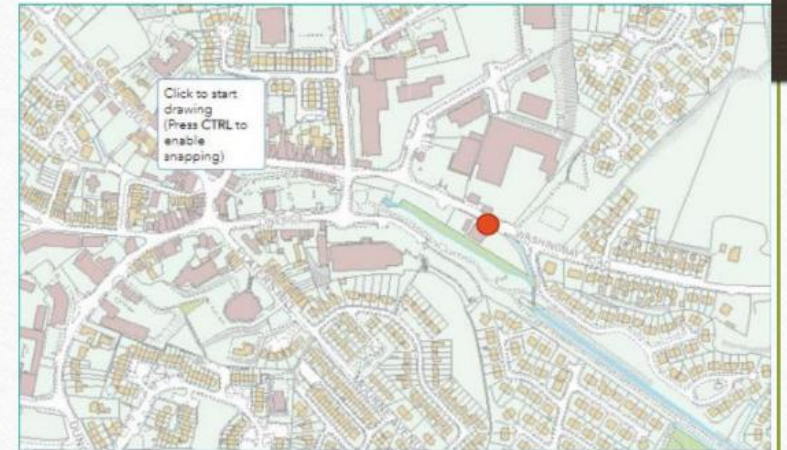
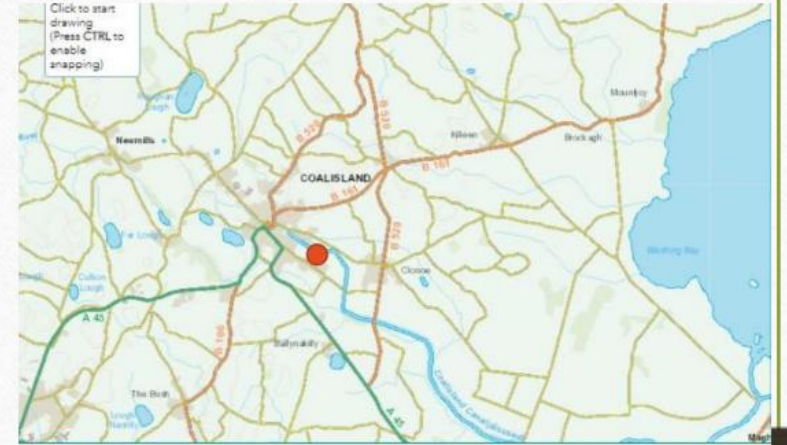
(Irish Language Community Hub – Our Future?)

- Very important for achieving Lónra Language Planning status for this part of Mid Ulster.
- Central base to integrate and grow the Irish language community – one of the most concentrated areas for Irish speakers in the north according to the last census yet no central base to call 'Baile.'
- It will house all of our activities: Development Office; Prenursery; Afterschool; Café; Youth Club; Drop-in centre; Classes; Talks; Conversation Circle; Singing Group, Walking Group al...
- Re-generation of a derelict building and adds to Council's current work to reinvigorate Coalisland Canal area.

Tacaíocht ó Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh?

(How can Mid Ulster Council help?)

- Cairde Uí Néill have successfully secured Letter of Offer for £198k to purchase building & grounds from Dept of Communities under Indigenous Languages Capital Fund.
- Cairde Uí Néill have successfully secured matched funding for £150k from Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge to help with purchase and initial basic renovation of building and grounds.
- Additional matched funding available from Ciste Infhéistíochta na Gaeilge of £50k dependent on Cairde UÍ Néill securing a further £50k. A Letter of Offer from council for £50k automatically secures Cairde Uí Néill the matched funding from Ciste - without this – the project is in danger of not happening!
- This is a key project in terms of Irish Language and Community Development both for Cairde Uí Néill and for the councils own language strategy.



An dtig libh cuidiú?

(Can you help?)

Projected Project Costs

- £198,000 purchase of facility
 - £202,000 projected costs of renovation
-
- £400,000 total project value

**CURRENT SHORTFALL OF
£100,000 IN SECURED FUNDING
BUT £100,000 MATCHED
FUNDING WAITING TO BE
CLAIMED**

Current Funding Secured

- £150,000 DCAL
 - £150,000 matched Ciste funding
 - **£50,000 Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh?**
 - **£50,000 matched Ciste funding**
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- £400,000 total project value

**£400,000 REGENERATION PROJECT
WILL BE SECURED WITH 50K
SUPPORT FROM COUNCIL**







