

APPENDIX 1



**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 Wednesday 3rd March 2021 in the Council Offices, Dungannon.

Attendees Members: In attendance and via virtual link: Cllr John McNamee (Chair), Cllr Wilbert Buchanan, Cllr Sean McGuigan, Cllr Trevor Wilson, Cllr Seán McPeake, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Cora Corry. Cllr Ian Milne

Officers: Tony McCance, By Remote link: Déaglán Ó Doibhlin.

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
1.0	Apologies	
	Adrian McCreesh, Seán Mac Nia, Cllr Kim Ashton	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
	Declaration of interest submitted by Cllr Corey in regard to an application for Seachtain na Gaeilge funding by Moneyneena and District Dev Association.	
3.0	Minutes of previous meeting held on 5th October 2020.	
	A report of the minutes of the previous meeting of 5th October 2020 was presented to the Working Group. T. McCance provided an update on the progress of Item 4 of the minutes of the 5 th October meeting of the RML working group. With regard to road signage, procurement and installation is	

continuing at pace although Covid restrictions in place in the Electoral Office continue to impact on the work of officers as they need to gain access to electoral database.

With regard to bi lingual signage programme across the Council estate, T. McCance advised the Working Group that the procurement exercise involving the re-tendering of this work as mentioned at previous meeting was now complete and a successful contractor has been identified both for facility bi lingual signage and road name signage.

With regard to staffing arrangements T McCance informed the meeting that the temporary appointment of a second Irish language officer was ending and the recruitment process to fill the vacant post on a permanent basis had been initiated.

4.0

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2021 update

D Ó Doibhlin informed the meeting that there had been 11 applications in total for funding for Seachtain na Gaeilge projects, with 10 successful and the remaining applicant asked to re-apply under the upcoming Irish language Activity Grant scheme. Details are as follows:

Mid-Ulster District Council Seachtain na Gaeilge Awards 2021

Applicant	Project Title	Award
Moneyneena and District Development Association	<p>“Being Seen, Being Heard</p> <p>In order to increase the visibility and encourage the use of the language we will engage with the local community in Moneyneena and District during Seachtain na Gaeilge to make the language more visible and to encourage people to use the language in everyday life. We wish to make the Irish language more visible on the An Ráth Dubh site with a view to supporting and encouraging its use within the Moneyneena area of Baile na Scrine. We propose that this would include bilingual signage within the An Ráth Dubh Centre, on</p>	£1,000

T McCance

		its 2 acre site incorporating childrens, playpark, community garden & walkway.		
	Granaghan Womens Group Swatragh	“Lá Fhéile Pádraig ar Líne” (Online Seachtain na Gaeilge event) A cultural celebration with Irish language learning, poetry and song	£180	
	Cairdeas Eoghain Cookstown	“Ceangáilte” (Connected) Our project is all about connections and using our Irish language skills. Due to the current pandemic the young people have missed out on using their language skills in social settings as all clubs and afterschool activities have been cancelled and even meeting up with their friends has been restricted. We plan on organising the following: - online workshop with Seamas Mac Eochaidh who will read snippets of his newly published book - Is mise Úna. This book is based on the move to secondary school and finding your feet as a teenager. Each child will receive a copy of the book. (For those in R5-R7) - 2 online cartooning workshops with Jarla (For those aged 7+) - online chat with Seo Linn and the young people will take part in singing of some popular pop songs as Gaeilge (€450). (For young people aged 11-14yrs)	£700	
	Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	“Craic agus Cultúr” (Fun with Culture)	£1,200	

	Dungannon	<p>We want to give our families and children the chance to sample all aspects of Gaelic culture during the festival.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Music workshop with Clann Mhic Cionnaith covering a range of musical instruments. Concert at the end of the workshop. 2. Traditional dance workshops with "Tura". 3. Sport – Two sessions with Óga Ioga 4. Language – poetry competition with prizes 		
	Piarsaigh an Ghallbhaile GAC Galbally	<p>"Lá Fhéile Pádraig sa Bhaile agus Thar Sáile" (St Patrick's Day at Home and Abroad)</p> <p>An online bilingual festival and project recording the memories of the older generation.</p>	£500	
	South Derry Cultural and Historical Society	<p>"Infheiceacht na Teanga – Ceardlann Feasa" (Online event looking at ways to increase the visibility of Irish in the community)</p>	£300	
	Naíscóil Aodha Rua Dungannon	<p>"Ag Cur Síolta na Gaeilge sa Phobal" (Sowing the seeds of the language in the community)</p> <p>We wish to give our community the chance to learn about St Patrick, the story of the shamrock, and the most common Irish language prayer associated with the saint. We will send a pot with soil and shamrock seeds home to the families, with a copy of the prayer "Críost Liom" composed by the saint and encourage them to grow</p>	£300	

		the plants, learn the prayer and say it as a family every night during the festival.	
An Clochar Éire Óg GAC Clogher		<p>“Logainmneacha An Chlochair” (A Celebration of the Placenames of Clogher);</p> <p>Research and presentation online of key placenames in the district to celebrate the Irish language heritage of the Clogher area.</p>	£300
CLG Naomh Pádraig Eglish		<p>‘Logainmneacha na hEaglaise’ (The Placenames of Eglish)</p> <p>Hosted by Dónal Mac an Ailín, Cultural Officer of CLG Naomh Pádraig, Caoimhín Mac Dhónaill will speak of his study of the placenames of the District of Eglish. The talk will be followed by an online debate for members of the community can learn and give input. The event will be followed up with a digital publication of the placenames and their meaning and history.</p>	£150
CLG Naomh Colmcille Coalisland		<p>“Canúintí Gaeilge Éireann agus Alban” (Gaelic Dialects of Ireland and Scotland)</p> <p>Dr Art Hughes</p> <p>An online bilingual talk delivered by Dr Art Hughes</p>	£150
Total			£4,780

5.0	Irish Language Implementation Plan update	
	<p>D Ó Doibhlin gave an update on progress in the delivery of the current Irish Language Implementation Plan. Most actions had been achieved with the exception of services adversely impacted by the pandemic, in particular the Irish in the Primary programme and the RML Bursary scheme, while a number of other actions such as adult language tuition and Irish language heritage promotion had been refocused to allow their delivery online. This had required the successful development of a range of online resources by Mr Seán Mac Ní (temporary Irish Language Officer). Also as yet to be completed was the development of a bilingual website by Council and the development of a bilingual settlement signage programme.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson asked if details could be provided as to the number of enquiries received in Irish by Council reception staff over the course of the year.</p> <p>Following a question from Cllr McNamee, T McCance stated that development of a fully bilingual website would necessitate the expenditure of £15,000 to £20000 to mirror the existing website content in Irish. Cllr Corey felt that key elements of the site could be developed at a much lower cost rather than the whole site. Cllr McGuigan also felt that some parts of the site were suitable for development initially with the rest coming at a later stage. T McCance offered to speak with Marketing and Communication who have responsibility for the website to see what is achievable.</p> <p>Cllr McNamee enquired as to the delay with the settlement signage programme. T McCance stated that no policy or mechanism existed at a corporate level for such a programme. Cllr Milne asked if the same process as was in use for road signage could be used, T McCance replied that whatever process were to be developed would need to be applicable across the region. Cllr McPeake asked if officers could follow up on the development of a settlement signage programme. Cllr McGuigan added that there was much community support for such a measure and that it may help to investigate what other councils are doing in this regard. Cllr Corey pointed to the success of the Turas, Irish language project in East Belfast and stated that the shared heritage of the Irish language could help to offset any potential</p>	<p>D Ó Doibhlin</p> <p>T McCance to ascertain whether this information is kept by Council at present. If not, request that a recording mechanism is introduced</p> <p>T McCance to liaise with Marketing and Communications</p>

	<p>negativity around this issue. Cllr McNamee stated that there was a need for Council to deliver on unachieved aims and asked that information on this matter be brought back to future meetings. Cllr Milne suggested that Senior Management within Council could take this matter forward for discussion.</p> <p>Cllr Kearney welcomed the recent achievement of An Carn Centre in Tirkane in winning the Glór na nGael, All Ireland language awards stating that it was a timely reminder of the unique contribution the language makes locally as a heritage asset and congratulating the local community in Carntogher on their well-deserved success.</p> <p>Cllr Milne relayed a recent discussion with members of the Cineál Eoghain heritage group where the issue of the use of townland names was raised, stating that it was necessary to support and encourage householders to use their townland in their address. T McCance agreed to investigate mechanisms internally where this could be taken forward.</p>	<p>T McCance to liaise with relevant Council Services</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>A.O.B.</p>	
	<p>It was agreed to schedule the next meeting for the end of May</p>	<p>T. McCance</p>
<p><i>Meeting concluded at 6.50pm</i></p>		

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