

9/11/2006

Peadar Morgan
Stiùiriche Planadh Cànan
Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Darach
Fèith nan Clach
Inbhir Nis IV2 7PA

A Mhgr Morgan chòir,

Response to Bòrd na Gàidhlig's language Plan Consultation

RE: the following areas

**Clackmannanshire, Rural Stirlingshire, Falkirk, Southern Perthshire,
Linlithgow, and Fife (Kincardine etc.)**

In the past 4 years, 50 children or more have attended the Gaelic Medium Cròileagan in Clackmannanshire. Most of their parents were very interested in further GM education for their children but were completely daunted when they discovered how hard it was to make any progress in getting this.

These parents live in isolated rural villages and former mill and mining towns, and are neither part of a traditional highland community or big city metro-Gaels. They do not know how to register (and therefore are not appearing on any GM survey) because:

- They don't know how to
- There are too many Councils they could apply to
- These Councils don't know what to do about GM

Please, can there be national system of GM registration, because the current request system most emphatically DOES NOT WORK.

Of these 50 or so children:

3 from Clackmannan → GM Bun-Sgoil Taobh na h-Aibhne, Stirling City

*3 from Clackmannan → GM Stirling → Inverness (after a 3 year transport struggle)

*1 from Clackmannan → GM Stirling → Glasgow

*2 from rural Stirlingshire → GM Stirling → Acharcle

Travel difficulties were a factor in families who moving elsewhere (marked*) or who gave up. Everyone knows about the lost 'Falkirk' Gaels who were refused a taxi.

The Stirling Unit at Bun-Sgoil Taobh na h-Aibhne grew from 3 to 75 in 7 years, with very little promotion on the part of the Council. There is tremendous demand out there but there are no development officers researching GM, or any other support, except the overworked Cròileagan Clach Mhanainn.

There are now 8 Stirlingshire secondary pupils who are experiencing difficulties with transport to Wallace High (from St Modans; Bannockburn etc.) and/or who have given up and/or who have gone to the Glasgow Gaelic School. Timetabling problems exist in this non-language friendly school.

No wonder people give up.

The former Central Region is experiencing a population explosion as young families move in for cheaper housing and convenient commuting, and there could be many GM units here if only the Councils were a little bit supportive.

A last idea that the plans should consider is travelling secondary teachers: why can't Cumbernauld, Stirling, Edinburgh, etc. pool secondary teachers who travel round the schools to offer a more complete service.

Le deagh dhùrachdan

Comann nam Pàrant, Struighlea & Clach Mhanainn