

Heather Cooke

From: Éanna Ó Cróinín <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 20 December 2018 12:14
To: Jim Conway; Malachy Bradley; Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly; RSES
Subject: Re: An Dréacht-Straitéis Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch Réigiúnach

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Chuib: Tionól Réigiúnach an Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre

A chara,

Táim ag scríobh chugaibh mar Chathaoirleach Chomharchumann Ráth Chairn, Ceanneagraíocht na Pleanála Teanga i nGaeltacht na Mí de bhun Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.

Is beag againn nach bhfuil leagan Gaeilge den Dréacht-Straitéis ar fáil as Gaeilge. Glacaimid go mbeidh an Straitéis féin ar fáil as Gaeilge nuair a ghlacfar í.

Is i gCaibidil 9 'Caighdeán na Beatha' a phléann an Dréacht-Straitéis le ceist na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta ag ponc 9.9 'Rochtain ar na hEalaíon, ar Chultúr, Teanga agus Oidhreacht.' agus in RPO 9.27.

Mar is eol díobh, tá Comhairle Contae na Mí ag ullmhú plean forbartha don chontae seo. Tá muid i mbun cainteanna leo maidir lena gcuid polasaithe, spriocanna agus aidhmeanna i leith pleanáil agus forbairt sa nGaeltacht. Is plean é seo a chuirfear i gcion a chéile taobh istigh den Straitéis Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch Réigiúnach agus taobh istigh de Threoirlíne an Rialtais agus de na hAchtanna Pleanála.

Chun go mbeidh an Straitéis Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch Réigiúnach ag teacht le spriocanna atá sna hAchtanna Pleanála, iarraim oraibh an méid seo thíos a bheith san áireamh sa Straitéis Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch Réigiúnach ó thaobh na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta de.

Mar is eol daoibh, tá **Treoirlínte Pleanála Uimh. 15** ann chun cabhrú le húdaráis áitiúla agus iad ag ullmhú a gcuid pleananna forbartha. Deir Uimhir 15 an méid seo a leanas maidir le forbairt i limistéir Gaeltachta faoin teideal "Mandatory objective 12: Gaeltacht Areas" (féach alt 10(2)(m) den Acht Pleanála) agus b'fhiú go mór a leithéid a bheith sa Straitéis Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch Réigiúnach ar mhaithe le buanseasmhacht idir na hAchtanna Pleanála, Beartais an Rialtais agus an Straitéis Spásúil agus Eacnamaíoch Réigiúnach:-

Gaeltacht areas form a unique part of the Irish cultural and linguistic heritage. Development plans have a role to play in their protection and development. Policies to be considered for inclusion in a plan should ensure that:

(i) Development proposals in Gaeltacht areas have a positive impact on the linguistic and cultural heritage - some forms or scales of development may have to be discouraged;

(ii) The needs of the community in land-use terms for housing, jobs, recreational and community facilities are clearly identified and provided for. Housing strategies should have particular regard to the needs of Gaeltacht residents;

(iii) Linguistic and cultural tourism projects and associated commercial schemes are positively promoted and facilitated. Zoning and development control policies and standards should be applied in a flexible manner to ensure that plans do not inhibit suitable schemes; and

(iv) The use of the Irish language is promoted in the design of developments e.g. business advertising, recreational and community facilities are clearly identified and provided and shop-front signage should be in the Irish language.

Further considerations in respect of Gaeltacht Areas are set out in Appendix C.

Deir Iarscríbhinn C:

APPENDIX C

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR GAELTACHT AREAS

In considering how to address the issue of the Irish language in a Gaeltacht area, the Planning Authority should be guided by certain important factors that will help ensure the protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht, including the promotion of the Irish language. Planning authorities should elicit and consider views expressed during the public consultation process.

Among the factors for consideration are:

Demographic Factors

- *A sufficiently large population to maintain the vibrancy of Irish,*
- *A population with a sufficiently wide age range including the younger age groups, and*
- *A population where in-migration of non-Irish speakers is limited to a scale that would not impinge on the integrity of the Irish-speaking population.*

Economic Factors

- *A sufficiently vibrant economy to ensure community stability,*
- *Economic activity of a nature and extent that would not compromise the integrity of the Gaeltacht area or population,*
- *Economic activity of a nature or extent that would not demand the introduction of languages and cultures that would not be supportive of the Irish language,*
- *The conducting of business and the management of business affairs through the use of the Irish language (where possible).*

Facilities

- *A range of facilities that would provide adequate opportunity for the teaching of Irish,*
- *A range of facilities that would reflect the linguistic culture of the area, and*
- *A range of facilities that would provide for the economic and social needs of the community.*

Administrative and Other Management Structures

- *The provision of adequate opportunity for full participation in the political and decision-making functions of the community through the Irish language, and*
- *The provision of adequate opportunity to fully conduct all business, both public and private, through the Irish language.*

Cultural Factors

- *The provision of adequate facilities for the presentation of the linguistic culture of the Gaeltacht,*
- *The reflection of the Irish language in the material culture of the area such as buildings, public signage, private signage, literature and maps,*
- *The provision of means of public and private communication through the use of the Irish language, and*
- *The provision of resources for entertainment and education through the use of the Irish language.*

Freisin, is gá go lorgófaí ráiteas tionchar teanga de réir alt 33(3)(a) den Acht Pleanála, é curtha i gcion a chéile ag duine atá oilte go cuí sa phleanáil teanga, i dteannta gach iarratais ar chead pleanála i gceantar Gaeltachta agus dá bhun sin go dtacófar le tograí a dhéanfaidh 'oidhreacht teanga agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta a chosaint, lena n-áirítear an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn mar theanga an phobail' (alt 10(2)(m) den Acht Pleanála) agus nach dtacófar le tograí nach ndéanfaidh é sin.

Ar mhaithe le daonra na Gaeltachta a chinntiú don todhchaí, de réir Treoirlíne Uimhir 15, is gá go gcaithfí le daoine a bhfuil cumas labhartha Gaeilge acu go leibhéal C1 ar scála TEG (www.teg.ie) is gá go gcaithfí leo i dtéarmaí pleanála amhlaidh is go bhfuil riachtanas tithíochta áitiúil acu.

Táimid ar fáil chun na moltaí seo thuas a phlé.

Beir bua,

Is mise le meas,

Éanna Ó Cróinín,

Cathaoirleach Comharchumann Ráth Chairn

Translation from Irish to English of original submission document...provided by the Irish Development Unit, DCC.

To: Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly

A chara,

I am writing to you as Chairperson of Comharchumann Ráth Chairn [Co-operative Society], Lead organisation for Language Planning in Meath Gaeltacht under the Gaeltacht Acht 2012.

We are very disappointed that there is no Irish version of the draft strategy available in Irish. We expect that the Strategy itself will be available in Irish when it is adopted.

Chapter 9 "Quality of Life" of the Draft Strategy discusses the matter of the Irish Language (Gaeilge) and the Gaeltacht at point 9.9 "Access to the Arts, Culture, Language and Heritage" and in RPO 9.27.

As you know, Meath County Council are preparing a development plan for this county. We are in discussions with them regarding their policies, objectives and aims in regard to planning and development in the Gaeltacht. This is a plan which will have effect/impact on each other within the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and within the Government Guidelines and the Planning Acts.

In order for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to be in line with the objectives in the Planning Act, I ask that the following [below] be included in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy in regard to the Irish Language and the Gaeltacht

As you know, Planning Guideline No. 15 is there to help local authorities in the preparation of their development plans. NO. 15 states the follow regarding the development of Gaeltacht areas under the title "Mandatory objective 12: Gaeltacht Areas" (see Section 10(2)(m) of the Planning Act) and it would be well worth including the like in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for stability between the Planning Acts, Government Policies and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy:-

Gaeltacht areas form a unique part of the Irish cultural and linguistic heritage. Development plans have a role to play in their protection and development. Policies to be considered for inclusion in a plan should ensure that:

- (i) Development proposals in Gaeltacht areas have a positive impact on the linguistic and cultural heritage - some forms or scales of development may have to be discouraged;*
- (ii) The needs of the community in land-use terms for housing, jobs, recreational and community facilities are clearly identified and provided for. Housing strategies should have particular regard to the needs of Gaeltacht residents;*
- (iii) Linguistic and cultural tourism projects and associated commercial schemes are positively promoted and facilitated. Zoning and development control policies and standards should be applied in a flexible manner to ensure that plans do not inhibit suitable schemes; and*
- (iv) The use of the Irish language is promoted in the design of developments e.g. business advertising, recreational and community facilities are clearly identified and provided and shop-front signage should be in the Irish language.*

Further considerations in respect of Gaeltacht Areas are set out in Appendix C.

Postscript C states:

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Among the factors for consideration are:

Demographic Factors

- *A sufficiently large population to maintain the vibrancy of Irish,*
- *A population with a sufficiently wide age range including the younger age groups, and*
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Economic Factors

- *A sufficiently vibrant economy to ensure community stability,*
- *Economic activity of a nature and extent that would not compromise the integrity of the Gaeltacht area or population,*
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- *A range of facilities that would provide adequate opportunity for the teaching of Irish,*
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- *The provision of adequate opportunity for full participation in the political and decision-making functions of the community through the Irish language, and*
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Cultural Factors

- *The provision of adequate facilities for the presentation of the linguistic culture of the Gaeltacht,*
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- *The provision of means of public and private communication through the use of the Irish language, and*
- *The provision of resources for entertainment and education through the use of the Irish language.*

In addition, along with every application seeking planning permission in a Gaeltacht area, a language impact statement should be sought, in accordance with section 33(3)(a) of the Planning Act and this statement should be produced by someone with the appropriate language planning skills, and in so doing support the proposal to 'protect the language heritage and culture of the Gaeltacht, including the promotion of the Irish language as a community language' (section 10(2)(m) Planning Act) and that any proposal that does not do so will not be supported.

In order to confirm Gaeltacht populations into the future, in accordance with Guideline Number 15, people with an ability to speak in Irish at level C1 on the TEG scale (www.teg.ie) should in terms of planning be treated as having a need for local housing.

We are available to discuss the above recommendations.

Beir bua,

Is mise le meas,

Éanna Ó Cróinín,

Cathaoirleach Comharchumann Ráth Chairn

To: Chuig: Tionól Réigiúnach an Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre

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Táimid ar fáil chun na moltaí seo thuas a phlé.

Beir bua,

Is mise le meas,

Éanna Ó Cróinín, Cathaoirleach Comharchumann Ráth Chairn

