

AIGHNEACHTAÍ TODHCHAÍ NA TUAITHE
AR DHRÉACHTPHLEAN FORBARTHA CHONTAE CHIARRAÍ 2022-2028
(English Language Version Follows)

*Feidhmeannaigh na Comhairle
a bhíonn ag plé leis an nGaeltacht*

Aighneacht: Go mbeadh Gaelainn líofa ag feidhmeannaigh go léir na Comhairle a bhíonn ag plé le hiarrataisí ón nGaeltacht.

Iarraimid go n-athrófaí meon na Comhairle i leith na Gaeltachta ó bheith ag féachaint ar iarrataisí pleanála a thagann ó mhuintir na Gaeltachta go namhadmhar agus mar phleananna a chuirfidh isteach ar an dturasóir go dtí meon comhairleach cabhrach treorach tacúil. Is dóigh linn go dtarlódh sé sin go nádúrtha dá bhfostófaí feidhmeannaigh le Gaelainn líofa go bhfuil tuiscint acu ar shaol laethúil na Gaeltachta agus a fhaigheann comhairle ó shaineolaithe sochtheangeolaíochta.

Creidimid go bhfuil ár gcearta bunreachtúla (Airteagal 8) á séanadh orainn mara bhfaighimid é seo. Tá an Ghaelainn aitheanta mar theanga oifigiúil i bparlaimint na hEorpa anois ach ní féidir le muintir na Gaeltachta a bheith ag plé lena gcuid pleanálaithe tithíochta féin ina dteanga dúchais ag baile.

Iarraimid oraibh é seo a athrú:

Dréachtphlean Forbartha Chontae Chiarraí (KCDP), lch. 114:

- Assign persons with Irish to provide services through Irish, as required. **Specifically, assign planners with fluent Irish to oversee all planning applications from the Gaeltacht. Moving forward, planners who deal with planning applications from the Gaeltacht who do not speak fluent Irish will be considered unsuitable, even for applications written in English.**

23 FEB 2022

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Riachtanais an phobail áitiúil thar riachtanais an turasóra

Aighneacht: Go dtabharfaí tús áite do riachtanais forbartha an phobail áitiúil thar riachtanais an turasóra.

Is maith ann é a bheith ag díriú ar an dturasóireacht mar áis chun forbairt a dhéanamh i saol na Gaeltachta ach níor chóir go mbeadh sé ina bhac ar mhuintir na háite maireachtaint ina mbailte agus ar a dtalamh féin. Mara bhfaigheann muintir na háite tús áite ar an dturasóir aon lae, tá an chairt roimis an gcapall. Má neartaíonn tú pobal na Gaeltachta féin, idir teanga, ceol agus daonra, cuirfidh tú le harineáil na turasóireachta. Creidimid má thugann tú tús áite don nduine áitiúil gur ar mhaithe leis an dturasóir atá tú, mar an turasóir a thiocfaidh agus a bhraithfidh an oidhreacht is luachmhaire dá bhfuil againn beo isna daoine, .i. an teanga, beidh dhá oiread seans go bhfillfidh sé.

Radharcanna .i. views and prospects: le blianta fada anois is iad na radharcanna, nó na *views and prospects*, ceann dosna cúiseanna is coitianta a chuireann bac ar an nduine áitiúil maireachtaint ina bhaile féin. Braitheann muintir na Gaeltachta go forleathan anois go bhfaigheann radharcanna an turasóra tús áite thar riachtanaisí cónaithe an duine áitiúil agus thar inmharthanacht na teangan sa cheantar. Caithfidh meon na Comhairle ina thaobh so athrú.

Seandálaíocht: cé go bhfáiltimid go fonnmhar roim moltaí na Comhairle go gcuirfí seandálaíocht san áireamh i gcúrsaí pleanála (Ich. 120, 8.3.2), braithimid gur chóir cosaint na teangan a bheith ar aon leibhéal le cosaint ár seandálaíochta. Mara mbeadh go bhfuil meas ag muintir na háite ar an seandálaíocht cheana féin, bheadh an oidhreacht san imithe le fán fadó. Ní theastaíonn uainn go ndéanfaí cnámh spairne den seandálaíocht i dtaobh cúrsaí pleanála agus go n-úsáidfi í mar chonstaic i gcoinne muintir na háite agus na Gaelainne, fé mar a bhagraíonn an léarscáil ar Ich. 121 den ndrúachtphlean:



Figure 1 KCDP Ich. 121.

Roinnimid go léir an oidhreacht so agus más amhlaidh a chaithfear scrúdú seandálaíochta a dhéanamh ar láthair tí, iarraimid gur ar an gComhairle a thitfeadh an costas san.

Tithe Saoire: ní ceart go n-úsáidfi líon na dtithe saoire i mbailte fearainn na Gaeltachta mar chúis ná ligfí do dhuine ón áit tógaint insa bhaile sin. Cothaíonn sé seo easaontais idir lucht

na dtithe saoire seo, go bhfáiltiomar riamh rompu, agus cosmhuintir na háite atá ag iarraidh tógaint inniubh. Má tá dearúd déanta, ní hiad muintir na háite a dhein é ach an Chomhairle a cheadaigh na tithe saoire seo a thógaint an chéad lá riamh agus anois níl sé ceart ná cothrom an dearúd san thógaint orainne, muintir na háite atá ag maireachtaint anso mar a dhein ár sínsir rómhainn.

Bailte Fearainn

Aighneacht: go bhféachfaí ar na bailte fearainn traidisiúnta mar láithreacha chun tithe aonair a thógaint laistigh den gcnuasach atá ann cheana.

Dá gceadófaí tithe aonaracha laistigh don gcnuasach traidisiúnta atá fágtha le hoidhreacht againn sna bailte fearainn chuirfí deireadh leis an bpláigh go dtugtar *one off housing* air - pláigh a leag pleánálaithe láracha anuas orainn i gcoinne toil ár sinnsear.

D'oibrigh pátrún lonnaíochta na mbailte fearainn sa Ghaeltacht leis na blianta go dtí gur cuireadh an riail leathacra i bhfeidhm chun tigh amháin a thógaint. Chuige seo ba chóir go mbeadh pleánálaithe na Comhairle ag obair i dtaca le muintir na háite chun eolas cruinn áitiúil a fháil ar theorainneacha na seanbhailte fearainn agus ba cheart féachaint an athuair ar cad é go díreach an cnuasach (*cluster*) atá ann inniu.

Tacaímid go láidir leis an ndearcadh atá léirithe i bplépháipéar a sheol fochoiste de pháirtí parlaiminte Fhianna Fáil i Mí an Mheithimh 2021, chun 'díriú ar phleanáil tar éis Covid-19 agus béim á cur acu ar phobail láidre a thógáil'.

'Ba cheart go mbeadh an polasaí pleanála ag díriú ar fhreastal a dhéanamh ar roghanna pearsanta daoine taobh istigh de chreat solúbtha in ionad cur chuige docht ón mbarr anuas a bhíonn ag iarraidh daoine a bhrú isteach i bpatrúin a bheidh réamhshocruithe ag pleánálaithe láracha.'

Tús Áite do Phobail: Fis Nua d'Éirinn, lch. 8.

Creidimid go bhféadfaí é seo a bhaint amach ar shlí a thagann leis na spriocanna teangan atá leagtha síos sa dréachtphlean,¹ trí limistéar zónála nua a thabhairt isteach sa phlean fé *Rural Area Types* (lch. 76–7), i.e. 'Linguistically Sensitive Rural Area':

KCDP, lch. 75–6:

5.5.1.4 Linguistically Sensitive Rural Area

Linguistically Sensitive Rural Areas	
KCDP 5-30	To help and encourage Irish speaking applicants looking for planning in Gaeltacht areas throughout the planning process to ensure a successful outcome and reduce their costs.

¹ Plean, lch. 112: 'The preservation of the Irish language is of paramount importance to the Gaeltacht areas and the Country as a whole'; lch. 115 'it is of critical importance to maintain the proportion of active integrated Irish speakers above 67% and ensuring that the proportion of young people speaking Irish is increased.'

KCDP 5-31	To recognise the Council's intrinsic need for Irish speaking individuals and families to settle in its Gaeltacht areas and to positively discriminate in favour of planning applications from applicants who speak Irish.
KCDP 5-32	Empower young Irish speaking families in these areas by actively encouraging them to acquire first homes in the area, whether through purchase, renovation or self-build.
KCDP 5-33	Regulate the holiday home market in the area through the implementation of language criteria for the purchase of second homes by non-Irish speakers.
KCDP 5-34	The following clause should be added to advertisements of property for sale in these areas: 'This property is located in a linguistically sensitive area. Purchase by a non-Irish speaking household could tip the balance of the community language in favour of English. For this reason, purchase of this house is subject to linguistic criteria.'

Limistéir Tuaithe (Rural Areas)

Aighneacht: Go n-aithneofaí an ceart atá ag cainteoirí Gaelainne, nach í a ngairm bheatha a bheith ag obair ar an dtalamh, maireachtaint sna Limistéir Tuaithe (*Rural Areas*) sa Ghaeltacht agus go dtuigfí go gcaithfidh siad san maireachtaint sa Ghaeltacht chomh maith má tá an Ghaelainn chun fanacht beo innti.

Fáiltimid roim an aidhm atá leagtha síos sa phlean ar lch. 115 go 'gcoimeádfai' ('maintain') líon na gcainteoirí laethúla Gaelainne sa Ghaeltacht ós cionn 67%. Ach fóiríor léiríonn taighde sochtheangeolaíoch go bhfuil líon na gcainteoirí laethúla Gaelainne lasmuigh dhon gcóras oideachais [tithe féna bhun so cheana](#).² Dá dheascaibh sin, ba cheart go scríobhfaí go bhfuil sé mar aidhm ag an gComhairle 'líon na gcainteoirí a chur suas go dtí os cionn 67% an athuair.'

KCDP, lch. 115:

- it is of critical importance to ~~maintain~~ **recover** the proportion of active integrated Irish speakers **to above 67% (i.e. pre-2011 levels)** and ~~ensuring that the proportion of young people speaking Irish is increased~~ **by actively assisting and supporting Irish speaking individuals and families to build or purchase homes in Gaeltacht areas.**

Chuide seo molaimid go ndéanfaí níos saoráidí é do mhuintir na háite, agus go háirithe do theaghlaigh óga go dteastaíonn uathu a gclann a thógaint le Gaelainn sa Ghaeltacht, tithe a thógaint laistigh do bhailte fearainn na Gaeltachta. Tagann sé seo leis an méid atá molta i bplean a d'fhoilsigh an fochoiste de chuid páirtí an Rialtais a luadh thuas:

'Ba chóir go mbeadh sé mar aidhm go dtógfai pobail láidre, inmharthana, inbhuanaithe agus comhtháthaithe a mbeidh daoine agus teaghlaigh ag iarraidh cónaí iontu'.

Tús Áite do Phobail: Fis Nua d'Éirinn, lch. 8

² <https://tuairisc.ie/daonaireamh-2016-cad-iad-na-ceantair-ghaeltachta-is-laidre-agus-ca-bhfuil-an-culu-is-mo/>

R45 Molann an Coiste go gcuirfi san áireamh i ngach Plean Gaeltachta an gá atá le treisiú a dhéanamh ar bhonn an daonra a labhraíonn Gaeilge i bpobail Ghaeltachta.

Tús Áite do Phobail: Fís Nua d'Éirinn, lch. 31

In áit a bheith ag féachaint ar mheath na Gaelainne sa Ghaeltacht ba cheart plean a bheith againn chun an taoide a chasadh agus go dtosnófaí ag cuimhneamh ar an nGaeltacht a athphlandáil.

KCDP, lch. 73:

- 'it is essential that a balance be struck between facilitating people with an economic or social need to live in the rural area while ensuring that other housing demand is facilitated and encouraged within Towns and Villages.'
- >
- 'it is essential that a balance be struck between facilitating people with an economic, **social or linguistic need (those whose language is crucial to the survivability of Irish in the Gaeltacht)** to live in the rural area while ensuring that other housing demand is facilitated and encouraged within Towns and Villages.'

KCDP, lch. 114:

- Kerry County Council actively facilitates those individuals with an intrinsic and economic need to live in the rural Gaeltacht area.
- >
- Kerry County Council actively facilitates those individuals with an intrinsic, economic **and linguistic** need to live in the rural Gaeltacht area.

Ní ceart go mbeifí ag brath go bhfaigheadh an cainteoir Gaelainne féin amach go bhfuil gá bunúsach ('intrinsic need') go mairfidís sin sa Ghaeltacht, ach ba cheart go dtuigfeadh Comhairle Chontae Chiarraí go bhfuil gá bunúsach acu san go mairfeadh daoine agus teaghlach a labhrann Gaelainn ina gcuid Gaeltachtaí agus ba chóir go mbeidís sin ag tacú go fonnmhar leo lonnú agus bláthú ann. Ach is amhlaidh a léiríonn béim na habairte seo thuas go gceaptar gurb é an duine aonair atá freagrach as an Ghaelainn a choimeád agus a chur chun cinn mar theanga labhartha (preserve and promote the use of Irish as a living daily-use language', lch. 112) agus ní an Chomhairle Chontae.

KCDP, lch. 115:

- Formulate an integrated strategic language planning process for the Gaeltacht and Gaeltacht proofing all activities undertaken by state organisations.

Is polasaí iontach é seo agus thacóimis leis, ach ba cheart go bhforbrófaí é agus go bhfoilseofaí sa phlean féin é. Ba cheart dul i gcomhairle mhuintir na Gaeltachta féin chun an polasaí seo a scríobh agus ba chóir don gComhairle Chontae moltaí a lorg ó shochtheangeolaithe cáilithe agus pleanálaithe teangan. Fágann an t-easpa spriocdátaí agus an t-easpa geallúntaisí dainséar ná beidh sa pholasaí seo ach moladh fánach.

SUBMISSIONS FROM TODHCHAÍ NA TUAITHE
ON DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COUNTY KERRY 2022-2028

*County Council Executives
who deal with the Gaeltacht*

Submission: That all executives dealing with planning issues from the Gaeltacht be fluent in Irish.

We ask that the Council's mindset towards planning applications from the Gaeltacht, and their regard as being disruptive to tourism, should change to a mindset that can council, assist, guide and support applicants. This could occur naturally with the appointment of executives fluent in Irish who would have an understanding and appreciation of daily Gaeltacht life and who can be advised by sociolinguists.

We believe that our Constitutional Rights (Article 8) are being denied to us if this is not granted. Irish is now recognised as an official language of the European Parliament but the people of the Gaeltacht are unable to have their planning issues dealt with in their native language.

We ask that this would change:

Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP), p. 114:

- Assign persons with Irish to provide services through Irish, as required. **Specifically, assign planners with fluent Irish to oversee all planning applications from the Gaeltacht. Moving forward, planners who deal with planning applications from the Gaeltacht who do not speak fluent Irish will be considered unsuitable, even for applications written in English.**

Local Needs before Tourism Needs

Submission: That priority be given to local community needs before tourism needs.

It is good that tourism is targeted for development within the life of the Gaeltacht but this should not be done at the expense of hindering the local population from living in homes on their own land. If local people are not given priority over tourists on daytrips and Sunday drives, we are putting the cart before the horse. If Gaeltacht communities themselves are strengthened and encouraged in their language, music and way of life, this will contribute to the growth of tourism. We believe that giving priority to the local person is advantageous to the tourist who comes to experience the richest live heritage we possess as a community, i.e. the Irish language, and that this multiplies the chance that they will return.

Views and Prospects: for many years now 'views and prospects' are the most common reason given to local people for refusal of planning permission on their own land. Gaeltacht people now firmly believe that views for the tourist are prioritised over the accommodation requirements of the local person and with total disregard of the language of the area. This mindset of the Council must change.

Archaeology: while we warmly welcome the Council's recommendations that archaeology be part of planning concerns (p. 120, 8.3.2), we argue that the protection of the language should be given equal status to archaeological protection. If local people had no appreciation of their historical monuments, that aspect of their heritage would be long gone. We do not wish to see archaeology become a bone of contention with regard to planning and hope that it will not be used as an impediment against locals and their language, as the map on p. 121 of the Draft Development Plan portends:

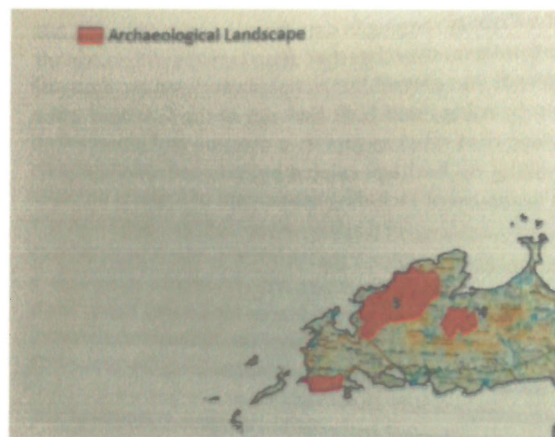


Figure 2 KCDP lch. 121.

We all share this heritage and if an archaeological survey is required on a proposed site, the cost involved should be met by the Council itself.

Holiday Homes: the number of holiday homes in Gaeltacht townlands should not be used as a reason for refusal of planning to local people. Such decisions foster disunity and tensions between holiday home people (whom we have always welcomed) and the local people wishing to build homes for themselves. If mistakes have been made, it is not the local people

who made them but the Council who granted permissions for holiday homes in the first place, and the local community should not now be made to pay for those mistakes by being prevented from living in the same place as their ancestors before them.

Townlands

Submission: that traditional townlands be recognised as suitable for single house development within the existing cluster.

If single houses were permitted within the traditional clusters that we have inherited, this would end the plague we know as *one-off-housing* – a plague permitted by planners against the will of our ancestors.

The pattern of building within the Gaeltacht townlands continued over the years until the introduction on the half-acre rule for building. In addressing this, Council planners should work with the local community to correctly ascertain the borders of such townlands and re-define today’s understanding of ‘cluster’.

We fully support the view expressed in the discussion paper launched by a subcommittee of the Fianna Fáil parliamentary party in June, 2021 to ‘target planning after Covid-19 and to encourage the development of strong communities’:

‘Ba cheart go mbeadh an polasaí pleanála ag díriú ar fhreastal a dhéanamh ar roghanna pearsanta daoine taobh istigh de chreat solúbtha in ionad cur chuige docht ón mbarr anuas a bhíonn ag iarraidh daoine a bhrú isteach i bpatrúin a bheidh réamhshocruithe ag pleanálaithe lánmacha.’

‘Planning policy should target serving people’s personal choices within a flexible framework rather than a rigid approach from the top down attempting to force people into a pre-set pattern by central planners.’

Tús Áite do Phobail: Fis Nua d’Éirinn, lch. 8.

We believe that this can be achieved in a way that agrees with the language aims expressed in the Development Plan,³ by introducing a new zoning-area category under Rural Area Types (pp. 76–7), i.e. ‘Linguistically Sensitive Rural Area’:

KCDP, pp. 75–6:

5.5.1.4 Linguistically Sensitive Rural Area

Linguistically Sensitive Rural Areas	
KCDP 5-30	To help and encourage Irish speaking applicants looking for planning in Gaeltacht areas throughout the planning process to ensure a successful outcome and reduce their costs.

³ KCDP, p. 112: ‘The preservation of the Irish language is of paramount importance to the Gaeltacht areas and the Country as a whole’; p. 115 ‘it is of critical importance to maintain the proportion of active integrated Irish speakers above 67% and ensuring that the proportion of young people speaking Irish is increased.’

KCDP 5-31	To recognise the Council's intrinsic need for Irish speaking individuals and families to settle in its Gaeltacht areas and to positively discriminate in favour of planning applications from applicants who speak Irish.
KCDP 5-32	Empower young Irish speaking families in these areas by actively encouraging them to acquire first homes in the area, whether through purchase, renovation or self-build.
KCDP 5-33	Regulate the holiday home market in the area through the implementation of language criteria for the purchase of second homes by non-Irish speakers.
KCDP 5-34	The following clause should be added to advertisements of property for sale in these areas: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">‘This property is located in a linguistically sensitive area. Purchase by a non-Irish speaking household could tip the balance of the community language in favour of English. For this reason, purchase of this house is subject to linguistic criteria.’</p>

Rural Areas

Submission: That the rights of Irish speakers whose livelihood is not agri-based be recognised as entitled to live in Gaeltacht Rural Areas on the basis that they also must be permitted to live in the Gaeltacht if the language is to survive.

We welcome the aim expressed in page 115 of the plan to *maintain* the number of daily Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht at over 67%. Unfortunately, [recent linguistic surveys](#)⁴ have shown that the number of daily speakers of Irish outside the educational system has fallen below this crucial threshold already. Therefore, this aim of the Council should be to *recover* the number of daily Irish speakers to over 67%.

KCDP, p. 115:

- it is of critical importance to ~~maintain~~ **recover** the proportion of active integrated Irish speakers **to above 67% (i.e. pre-2011 levels)** and ~~ensuring that the proportion of young people speaking Irish is increased~~ **by actively assisting and supporting Irish speaking individuals and families to build or purchase homes in Gaeltacht areas.**

To achieve this policy aim, we recommend that local people and especially young people wishing to bring up their families with Irish in the Gaeltacht be facilitated to build homes within Gaeltacht townlands. This is in agreement with the Fianna Fáil discussion paper already cited above:

‘Ba chóir go mbeadh sé mar aidhm go dtógfaí pobail láidre, inmharthana, inbhuanaithe agus comhtháthaithe a mbeidh daoine agus teaghlaigh ag iarraidh cónaí iontu’.

⁴ <https://tuairisc.ie/daonaireamh-2016-cad-iad-na-ceantair-ghaeltachta-is-laidre-agus-ca-bhfuil-an-culu-is-mo/>

'It should be the aim to develop strong, viable, sustainable and cohesive communities where people and families wish to live.'

Tús Áite do Phobail: Fis Nua d'Éirim, lch. 8

R45 Molann an Coiste go gcuirfi san áireamh i ngach Plean Gaeltachta an gá atá le treisiú a dhéanamh ar bhonn an daonra a labhraíonn Gaeilge i bpobail Ghaeltachta.

R45 The Committee recommends that every Gaeltacht Plan should include the necessity to strengthen the Irish language base in Gaeltacht communities.

Tús Áite do Phobail: Fis Nua d'Éirim, lch. 31

Instead of observing the decline of Irish within the Gaeltacht, there should be a plan to turn the tide and consider the re-plantation of the Gaeltacht.

KCDP, p. 73:

- 'it is essential that a balance be struck between facilitating people with an economic or social need to live in the rural area while ensuring that other housing demand is facilitated and encouraged within Towns and Villages.'

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'it is essential that a balance be struck between facilitating people with an economic, **social or linguistic need (those whose language is crucial to the survivability of Irish in the Gaeltacht)** to live in the rural area while ensuring that other housing demand is facilitated and encouraged within Towns and Villages.'

KCDP, lch. 114:

- Kerry County Council actively facilitates those individuals with an intrinsic and economic need to live in the rural Gaeltacht area.

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Kerry County Council actively facilitates those individuals with an intrinsic, economic **and linguistic** need to live in the rural Gaeltacht area.

It should not be up to individuals to discover their 'intrinsic need' to live in a rural Gaeltacht area, instead Kerry County Council should recognise its own 'intrinsic need' for Irish speaking individuals and families to live in its rural Gaeltacht areas and actively encourage them to settle and thrive there. The emphasis of this sentence suggests that the onus to 'preserve and promote the use of Irish as a living daily-use language', as laid out on page 112, rests on individuals rather than on the Council.

KCDP, lch. 115:

- Formulate an integrated strategic language planning process for the Gaeltacht and Gaeltacht proofing all activities undertaken by state organisations.

This is an excellent policy, however it should be formulated and published in the plan itself. It should be developed in consultation with public meetings in Gaeltacht areas and should seek council and recommendations from qualified sociolinguists and language planners. The lack of deadlines or specific commitments in delivering this policy presents a danger that it may never amount to more than a suggestion.

CUID DE BHAILL TODHCHAÍ NA TUAITHE

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Máire Uí Bheaglaoich

Agus sínithe thar cheann Todhchaí na Tuaithe ag

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