

**Local Place Plan Regulations Consultation Response  
by Bòrd na Gàidhlig  
14 June 2021**

Is e Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) a' phrìomh bhuidheann phoblach ann an Alba a tha an urra ri leasachadh na Gàidhlig a chur air adhart agus comhairle a thoirt do Mhinistearan na h-Alba air cùisean Gàidhlig. Tha sinn a' cur fàilte air a' chothrom freagairt a thoirt don cho-chomhairle seo air Molaidhean airson Riaghailtean air Planaichean Àite Ionadail (LPPn).

Tha dragh oirnn nach eil na riaghailtean a tha air am moladh a' dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid sùim a ghabhail de dh'fheumalachdan choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ann an LPPn.

Tha BnG a' toirt taic do na molaidhean a leanas anns an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh:

- gum bu chòir a mhìneachadh san lagh gu bheil e mar dhleastanas air a' bhuidheann coimhearsnachd a dhol an sàs le daoine agus am beachdan a shireadh gus cuideachadh le bhith ag ullachadh LPP.
- gum bu chòir riathanas reachdail as lugha a chur air a' bhuidheann coimhearsnachd co-chomhairle a dhèanamh leis a' choimhearsnachd nuair a thèid dreachd LPP ullachadh agus mus cuir iad a-steach LPP.

Bheireadh iad sin cothrom do choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig moladh mar a b' urrainn don Phlana aire a thoirt air na feumalachdan aca. Ach, chan eil iad a' dèanamh cinnteach gum bi na feumalachdan sin air an nochdadh san LPP dheireannach.

Tha an sgrìobhainn co-chomhairleachaidh ag ràdh gur e amas LPPn "a bhith a' toirt cumhachd do choimhearsnachdan pàirt fhor-ghnìomhach a ghabhail ann a bhith a' cumadh àm ri teachd nan àiteachan aca le bhith a' cur am molaidhean an cèill airson cleachdadh agus leasachadh fearainn". Faodaidh seo taic a thoirt do leasachadh eaconamach is sòisealta sgìrean, a' toirt a-steach an fheadhainn le coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig.

Chuireadh sin an uair sin ri bhith a' daingneachadh cleachdadh na Gàidhlig aig ìrean ionadail agus nàiseanta. Tha Plana Nàiseanta nan Eilean 2019 ag ràdh gu bheil "Riaghaltas na h-Alba ag aithneachadh cho cudromach 's a tha a' Ghàidhlig do mhòran choimhearsnachdan eileanach, agus cho cudromach 's a tha

Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) is the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development and providing advice to the Scottish Ministers on Gaelic issues. We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation on Proposals for Regulations on Local Place Plans (LPPs).

We are concerned that the proposed regulations do not ensure that the needs of Gaelic speaking communities will be accounted for in LPPs.

BnG supports the suggestions in the consultation document, that:

- It should be set out in law that there is a requirement for the community body to engage and seek the views of people to assist in the preparation of an LPP.
- There should be a minimum statutory requirement on the community body to consult the community once a draft LPP has been prepared and before submitting an LPP.

These would afford Gaelic speaking communities the opportunity to suggest how the Plan can take account of their needs. However, they do not ensure that those needs will be reflected in the final LPP.

The consultation document states that an aim of LPPs is "empowering communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places by setting out their proposals for the use and development of land". This can help support areas' economic and social development, including those with Gaelic speaking communities.

That would in turn contribute to securing the future use of the Gaelic language at both the local and national levels. The 2019 National Islands Plan states that "Scottish Government recognises the importance of the Gaelic language to many island communities, and the importance of the Gaelic speaking island

coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig nan eilean airson mairsinn agus seasmhachd na Gàidhlig ann an Alba”.

A thuilleadh air sin, dh’fhaodadh leasachaidhean fiosaigeach sònraichte àite a thoirt do ghnìomhan a bheir taic do amas Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig 2018-23 gum bi a’ Ghàidhlig “air a cleachdadh nas trice, le barrachd dhaoine agus ann an raon nas fharsainge de shuidheachaidhean”. Faodaidh na LPPan cuideachd cur ri bhith a’ coileanadh amas a’ Phlana gum bi barrachd cleachdaidh de Ghàidhlig na amas coitcheann thar mòran bhuidhnean – buidhnean coimhearsnachd nam measg.

Tha an ceangal eadar leasachadh na Gàidhlig agus leasachaidhean fiosaigeach ri fhaicinn anns a’ chom-pàirteachas ùr eadar Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Fearann Coimhearsnachd na h-Alba. Libhridh seo maoinachadh airson leasachadh na Gàidhlig le uachdarain coimhearsnachd eileanach, urrasan dualchais agus eile.

Uile gu lèir tha dragh oirnn nach eil na riaghailtean a tha air am moladh a’ dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid sùim a ghabhail de dh’fheumalachdan choimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig ann an LPPn. Aig a’ char as lugha, bu chòir iomradh a thoirt air an fheum airson seo anns an dreach dheireannach de na riaghailtean.

communities to the survival and sustainability of Gaelic in Scotland”.

Further, specific physical developments could house activities that support The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-23 overall aim that Gaelic is “used more often, by more people and in a wider range of situations”. The LPPs can also contribute to achieving the Plan’s objective that greater use of Gaelic is a shared aim across many organisations-including community bodies.

The link between Gaelic development and physical developments is evident in the new partnership between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Community Land Scotland. This will provide funding for Gaelic development by island community landowners, heritage, and other trusts.

In summary, we are concerned that the proposed regulations do not ensure that the needs of Gaelic speaking communities will be accounted for in LPPs. At the least, the need for this should be referenced in the final version of the regulations.

