

NUACHTLITIR CHILL CHOMÁIN

Tá go leor daoine ag fiosrú faoi na hathraithe atá beartaithe ag an rialtas a thabhairt isteach, ina measc an táille teaghlaigh d'úinéirí tithe cónaithe, an reachtaíocht ar chórais shéarachais tí, an comhnascadh ar scoileanna beaga arl. Tugtar cuntas ginearálta ar chuid de na hábhair ins an eagrán seo den Nuachtlitir agus is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil ar na suíomhanna idirlíne atá ainmnithe. Tá Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo ag eagrú lá oscailte sa Seanscoil ar an 20ú Aibreán óna 2.00 i.n. go 8.00 i.n. chun eolas a chur ar fáil don phobal ar ról an chomharchumainn i bhforbairt pobail, conas tograí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú, an ról atá ag eagraíochtaí eile stáit i bhforbairt pobail arl.

Many people are enquiring about the various schemes the government intends to implement including the introduction of the household charge for owners of residential properties, the proposed legislation on domestic wastewater treatment systems, the proposed amalgamation of small schools etc. A general overview of some of these issues is included in this edition of the Newsletter and further details are available on the websites listed. Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is organising an open day in the Seanscoil on 20th April from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. to provide information to the public on the role of the co-operative in community development, how to develop and manage projects, the role of state-agencies in community development etc. *Bual isteach chun tú féin a chur ar an eolas.*

* Nuachtlitir Áitiúil

* A Community Newsletter

* Guth an phobail ar mhaithe leis an bpobal

* Provides a voice for the local community and an update on development issues

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Foilsithe ag Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo (i gcomhar le fo-choiste Ghlór na nGael)

Coiste Bainistíochta an Chomharchumainn / The Management Committee

Cathaoirleach: Micheál de Búrca
Rúnaí: Seán Mac Aindriú
Cisteoir: Máire Cáit Uí Mhurchú
Na baill eile: Micheál Ó Seighin, Caitlín Uí Sheighin, Micheál Ó Murchú, Séamus Ó Murchú, Uinsíonn Mac Graith agus Diana Ní Thailliúr.

Ráiteas Misin / Mission Statement

Is comharchumann forbartha pobail é Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo atá cláraithe le Clárlann na gCarachumann. Tá sé mar ráiteas misin aige oibriú go gníomhach ar shon forbairt theangeolaíoch/chultúrtha, bhonneagartha, oideachasúil agus shóisialta paróiste Chill Chomáin agus acmhainní nádúrtha agus daonna an cheantair a fhorbairt ar bhealach chomhtháite. Ag comhoibriú le Coiste Ghlór na nGael, grúpaí forbartha áitiúla agus eagrais éagsúla stáit tá roinnt tograí curtha i gcrích go dáta.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is a community development co-operative which is registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies. Its mission is to work in a proactive way to promote the linguistic/cultural, infrastructural, educational and social development of the parish of Cill Chomáin and to develop in an integrated way the material and human resources of the area. Working in conjunction with Coiste Ghlór na nGael, local development groups and various state agencies a number of projects have been undertaken to date.

Ionad Eolais / Information Office

Tá oifig na heagraíochta lonnaithe sa Seanscoil i gCeathrú Thaidhg áit a bhfuil na seirbhísí seo a leanas le fáil:-

Eolas agus comhairle do choistí pobail maidir le ról na n-eagras forbartha, conas tograí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú, foinsí maoinithe &rl.

Foirmeacha iarratais ar scéimeanna éagsúla mar shampla deiseanna traenála &rl.

Seirbhísí cóipéala, laminating agus facs

Seirbhísí eolais do chuariteoirí - léarscáileanna, bróisiúirí, leabhráin, dlúthdhioscanna, cártaí poist, leabharlann d'ábhar béaloideas agus liteartha Gaeilge, taispeántas grianghraif &rl.

The organisation's office is located in the Seanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg where the following services are available:-

Information and assistance to community groups in relation to the role of development agencies, developing and managing projects, sourcing funding etc.

Application forms on various schemes including training opportunities etc.

Photocopying, laminating and fax services.

Visitor information including maps, brochures, booklets, CD ROMs, postcards, a library of folklore and Irish language material, photographs etc.

Guth an Phobail / Have Your Say

Má tá spéis agat a bheith i do bhall ar an gcomharchumann agus ionchar níos mó a bheith agat ar chúrsaí forbartha na háite déan teagmháil le Treasa le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais. Má tá aon tuairimí agat ar ábhar an nuachtlitir seo nó moltaí le haghaidh an chéad eagrán eile ba bhreá linn cloisteáil uait.

If you would like to become a member of the comharchumann and have a greater input into the overall development of the area please contact Treasa for further information. We welcome your comments on the items covered in this newsletter and/or any ideas you may have for the next issue.

Déan teagmháil le Treasa Ní Ghearraigh, Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo, An tSeanscoil, Ceathrú Thaidhg, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo

Pobail Thuaithe faoi Bhrú / Challenges Facing Rural Communities

Tá pobail Thuaithe agus Ghaeltachta faoi bhrú, agus iad ag iarraidh dul i ngleic leis na hathraithe atá beartaithe ag an rialtas a thabhairt isteach, ina measc an táille teaghlaigh d'úinéirí tithe cónaithe, an reachtaíocht ar chórais shéarachais tí, an comhnascadh ar scoileanna beaga, agus an deireadh atá curtha le mórchuid na scéimeanna a bhí ag Roinn na Gaeltachta agus gan aon rud ina n-áit. Beidh tionchar mór ag na rudaí seo uilig sna blianta atá amach romhainn. Ceapann go leor daoine go bhfuil na hathraithe seo tugtha isteach le deifir ag an rialtas, gan dul i gcomhairle i gceart leis an bpobal, nó fiú gan díospóireacht ceart ag leibhéal an rialtais féin. Tugtar cuntas ginearálta don léitheoir anseo. Is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil ar na suíomhanna idirlíne atá ainmnithe.

Rural and Gaeltacht communities are facing many changes and challenges. The introduction of the household charge for owners of residential properties, the proposed legislation on domestic wastewater treatment systems i.e. septic tanks, the proposed amalgamation of small schools, the proposed budget cutbacks in Gaeltacht schemes – all will have far reaching consequences in the years ahead. Many people feel that these changes have been rushed in by government without proper consultation with the stakeholders involved, or indeed, proper debate at government level. What follows is a general overview. Further details are available on the websites listed.

An Táille Teaghlaigh / The Household Charge

Tá sé de dhualgas ar an Rialtas cáin réadmhaoine a thabhairt isteach i 2012 de réir an Chláir um Thacaíocht Airgeadais an AE/CAI (an Chiste Airgeadaíochta Idirnáisiúnta) d'Éirinn. Thógfadh cáin réadmhaoine, ina mbeadh gá le córas cuimsitheach um luacháil réadmhaoine, go leor ama le tabhairt isteach agus dá bhrí sin, chun riachtanais Chláir an AE/CAI a chomhlíonadh, bheartaigh an Rialtas Táille Teaghlaigh a thabhairt isteach i 2012.

Is táille bliantúil é an Táille Teaghlaigh a tugadh isteach faoin Acht Rialtais Áitiúil (Táille Teaghlaigh) 2011 atá iníoctha ag úinéirí réadmhaoine cónaithe. Caithfidh na húinéirí clárú leis an Roinn Chomhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtas Áitiúil agus táille clárúcháin a íoc tar éis lú Eanáir 2012. Deireann an rialtas gur beart sealadach é an Táille Teaghlaigh agus go bhfuil sé i gceist cáin luacháil-bhunaithe réadmhaoine, atá cuimsitheach agus cothromasach, a thabhairt isteach chomh luath agus is féidir.

I dtíortha eile san Eoraip baintear úsáid as táillí réadmhaoine-bhunaithe chun seirbhísí áitiúla riachtanacha, atá ar mhaithe leis an bpobal iomlán, a mhaoiniú. Ionu seo tá seirbhísí dóiteáin agus éigeandála; cothabháil agus glanadh na sráideanna; pleanáil agus forbairt; páirceanna poiblí; soilsiú sráide; leabharlanna; spásanna oscailte agus áiseanna fóillíochta.

I gceantar mar Chill Chomáin, áfach, níl formhór na seirbhísí seo curtha ar fáil ag an rialtas agus caithfidh na daoine iad féin íoc as seirbhísí bailiú bruscair, seirbhísí dóiteáin arl. Faoin gcóras luach maoine tá sé de dhualgas ar an úinéir tí, luach a chur ar a t(h)each. Níl na treoirlínte seo leagtha síos go fóill.

The EU/IMF Programme of Financial Support for Ireland commits the Government to the introduction of a property tax for 2012. A property tax, requiring a comprehensive property valuation system, would take time to introduce and accordingly, to meet the requirements in the EU/IMF Programme, the Government has decided to introduce a Household Charge in 2012.

The Household Charge is an annual charge introduced by the Local Government (Household Charge) Act 2011 which is payable by owners of residential property who must register with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and pay a registration fee after the 1st of January 2012. The government states that the Household Charge is an interim measure only and that a comprehensive and equitable valuation-based property tax will be introduced as soon as possible.

In other European countries local essential services, which benefit everyone, are funded through property-based charges. They include: fire and emergency services; maintenance and cleaning of streets; planning and development; public parks; street lighting; libraries; open spaces and leisure amenities. In these

countries property tax is part of a general tax system that has been carefully costed and citizens are aware of the system in place.

In an area like Cill Chomáin, however, most of these services are not provided at all by government, and individuals themselves must bear the cost of refuse collection, fire services etc. Under the property valuation system the onus is on the house owner to determine the value of his/her property. The exact guidelines to determine this are still not in place.

Chun Breis Eolais a Fáil déan cuairt ar www.householdcharge.ie nó glaoigh ar 1890 357 357

Córais Shéarachais Tí / Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

Ar an 29^ú Deireadh Fómhair 2009 rialaigh Cúirt Chirte na hEorpa in aghaidh Éirinn i leith riaradh dhramhuisce ó dhabhchanna séarachais. Tugadh go dtí an 3ú Feabhra 2012 do Rialtas Fhine Gael – Pháirtí an Lucht Oibre reachtaíocht úr a thabhairt isteach nó bheadh pionós aonuaireach de €2.7 milliún agus pionós laethúil de €26,000 le n-íoc. Tá soláthar faoi Acht na Seirbhísí Uisce (Leasaithe) 2012 chun chórais dhramhuisce tí a chlárú agus a scrúdú.

Cruinniú Poiblí

Ag cruinniú poiblí a bhí eagraithe i mBéal an Mhuirthead ar an 10ú Eanáir rinne an Comhairleoir Rose Conway Walsh cur i láthair ar impleachtaí Achta na Seirbhísí Uisce (Leasaithe) 2012, a bhéas tionchar aige ar bhreis agus 450,000 teaghlach ar fud na tíre a bhaineann úsáid as dabhchanna séarachais mar nach bhfuil aon chórais shéarachais poiblí ann. I láthair ag an gcruinniú chomh maith bhí na Comhairleoirí Michael Holmes agus Michael Mc Namara.

Tuigeann chuile dhuine go bhfuil uisce glan tábhachtach don timpeallacht agus do shláinte agus leas an duine. Tá polasaithe an rialtais, droch-phleanáil, agus easpa infheistíochta tar éis go leor fadhbanna a chruthú áfach. B'shin é an príomh-theachtairacht a tháinig ón gcruinniú chomh maith leis na pointí seo a leanas:-

- 1. Tá sé mí-chothrom agus claonta go mbeidh ar dhaoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu faoin dtuath na costais iomlán a bhaineann le córais shéarachais tí a iompar nuair atá an tseirbhís curtha ar fáil saor in aisce do na daoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu sna ceantacha uirbeacha.*
- 2. Mar thoradh ar neamhaird na rialtais éagsúla, tá an t-easpa infheistíochta in Ionaid Riaradh Dhramhuisce i gceantacha mar Iorras mí-chothrom.*
- 3. Cén chaoi ar féidir leis an Rialtas iallach a chur ar mhuintir Iorrais a gcuid dabhchanna séarachais a chur faoi chigireacht nuair atá dramhaíl ag rith isteach i gCuan an Inbhir Mhóir agus i gCuan an Fhóid Dhuibh. Tá daoine a bhfuil cónaí orthu sna ceantacha seo fós ag fanacht ar chórais sásúil shéarachais. Tá an truailliú seo ag sárú treoirlínte an Aontais Eorpaigh.*
- 4. Má theipeann an dabhach shéarachais an cigireacht beidh ar an gcónaitheoir costais throma a iompar chun í a uasghrádú nó ceann úr a chur isteach. Ba chóir go mbeadh scéim mhaoinithe, cosúil leis an scéim atá ag an SEAI chun fuinneamh a chaomhnú sa mbaile, chun cuidiú le daoine cloí leis an reachtaíocht nua.*
- 5. Cén caighdeán a bhéas i gceist? Bhí na dabhchanna séarachais ag cloí le treoirlínte pleanála an Chomhairle Chondae, an t-eagras pleanála, nuair a tógadh an teach an chéad lá. Nach bhfuil sé faoi chúram Comhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo a chinntiú go bhfuil treoirlínte an Aontais Eorpaigh 1975 (Leasaithe) dá chur i bhfeidhim?*
- 6. San áit a bhfuil dabhach shéarachais suite ar thalamh chomharsan, an bhfuil sé de dhualgas ar an úinéir talaimh de réir dlí, cead a thabhairt chun na hoibreacha cuí a dhéanamh?*
- 7. Céard a tharlaíonn muna bhfuil síothlú oiriúnach thart ar an ndabhach shéarachais agus nach bhfuil aon talamh breise ag an úinéir chun an dabhach a bhogadh. Cruthaíonn an moladh go mba chóir ligean d'uisce tí (liath) rith isteach sna dabhchanna séarachais go leor fadhbanna – ní cleachtas maith*

timpeallachta é, seans nach mbeidh na dabhchanna inann an t-uisce breise a thógáil agus beidh píopaí breise le leagan síos chun an t-uisce a dhíriu isteach sna dabhchanna.

On 29th October 2009 the European Court of Justice ruled against Ireland in relation to the treatment of waste water from septic tanks. The Fine Gael-Labour Government was given until 3rd February 2012 to introduce new legislation. Otherwise Ireland would face fines including a lump sum penalty of €2.7 million and a daily fine of more than €26,000. The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 provides for the introduction of a registration and inspection system for domestic wastewater treatment systems i.e. septic tanks.

Public Meeting

At a well attended meeting in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel on 10th January Clr. Rose Conway Walsh gave a presentation on the implications of the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 which will effect more than 450,000 households across the country who, in the absence of public sewerage systems, use septic tanks. In attendance also were Councillors Michael Holmes and Michael Mc Namara.

Everyone is aware of the importance of clean water to the environment and to our health and wellbeing. However, government policy and the lack of proper planning and investment have created many problems. This was voiced strongly at the meeting which raised the following **key issues**:-

1. It is unfair, unjust and discriminatory that people living in rural areas should have to bear the full costs of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems when those living in urban areas have the service provided free of charge.
2. The lack of Investment in Waste Water Treatment Plants and Infrastructure by successive Governments in rural areas such as Erris is inequitable.
3. How can the Government compel the people of Erris to have their Septic Tanks inspected when raw sewerage continues to flow into Broadhaven Bay and Blacksod Bay? People in these areas have waited decades, and are still waiting, for adequate sewerage schemes. How many EU Directives are being contravened by the pollution in these Bays?
4. Should the septic tank fail the inspection, the dweller faces the prospect of punitive bills for its upgrading or replacement. There should be a Financial Assistance Scheme similar to the SEAI, Warmer Homes or Home Energy Saving Scheme to assist people to comply with new legislation.
5. What Standards are going to be applied? All septic tanks complied with the planning regulations at the time the dwelling was built and were passed by Mayo County Council, the planning authority. Is Mayo County Council not responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the 1975 EU Directive as amended were adhered to?
6. Where a septic tank is located on a neighbours land, is the landowner legally obliged to allow the necessary works to be carried out?
7. What happens if the percolation area of a septic tank is not suitable and the owner does not have any more land on which to move the septic tank? The proposal to divert grey water into existing septic tanks creates many problems – it is not environmentally sound practice, tanks may not have enough capacity to take the extra water and additional pipe work will be necessary to divert the grey water in the tanks.

Breis Eolais

Minister's Office Queries - Minister Phil Hogan, T.D: Phone: 01 888 2403 or 01 888 2000
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Custom House, Custom House Quay,
Dublin 1 Email: minister@environ.ie

D'fhógair An Rialtas ciorraithe i mbuiséad 2012 a mbeidh impleachtaí tromchúiseacha acu ar thodchaí scoileanna beaga tuaithe go mórmhór. Ciallaíonn an laghdú sa gcóimheas múinteoirí agus daltaí go mbeidh scoileanna beaga á dhúnadh nó á chomhnascadh, go mbeidh níos mó páistí sna seomraí ranga agus go mbeidh níos lú tacaíocht ar fáil do na páistí dá bharr. Léiríonn an slua mór daoine a d'frestal ar chruinniú eolais, a bhí eagraithe in Óstán an Broadhaven Bay ag SOS (Sábháil ár Scoileanna Beaga) ar an 13ú Feabhra, go bhfuil an-ínní agus an-fhearg ar an bpobal faoin ábhar seo. Rinne Seán Ó Gallchóir agus Bríd Ní Sheighin cur i láthair an-chuimsitheach ar na fírí. I measc an haoi-chainteoirí bhí Dara Calleary TD, Mairéad Ní Chualáin (Eagraíocht na Scoileanna Gaeltachta), Séamus Ó hUiginn (I.N.T.O.), Comhairleoir Michael Holmes, Clr. Rose Conway Walsh agus Clr. Gerry Coyle. Chomh maith leis na himpleachtaí oideachais, is buille marfach é dúnadh na scoile, atá mar chroílár an phobail, do thodchaí an cheantair i gcoitinne.

In its budget for 2012 the government announced cutbacks which will have serious implications for the future of small rural schools in particular. The reduction in the teacher – pupil ratio ultimately means that small schools will be closed or amalgamated, there will be more children in classrooms and there will be less support available to the children as a result. The huge turnout at an information meeting which was organised by SOS (Save Our Small Schools) in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel on 13th January indicates that the community is deeply worried and angered about this issue. Seán Ó Gallchóir and Bríd Ní Sheighin gave a very detailed and well researched presentation of the facts. Other guest speakers included Dara Calleary TD, Mairéad Ní Chualáin (Eagraíocht na Scoileanna Gaeltachta), Jim Higgins (I.N.T.O.), Clr. Michael Holmes, Clr. Rose Conway Walsh and Clr. Gerry Coyle. In addition to the obvious educational implications, the closing of a school puts the future viability of a community at risk. On 25th February up to 2000 people attended a protest march in Castlebar to highlight the implications of the proposed cutbacks and the impact they are likely to have on the future of education.



Ag an mórshiúl i gCaisleán a' Bharraigh ar an 25ú Feabhra bhí Áine Bashford agus a hiníonacha Seoirsín agus Alanna, Rachel Ní Rudaigh agus Caitlín Ní Chonghóile. (Grianghraf: Uinsíonn Mac Graith)

Céard is féidir leat a dhéanamh?

Contact Minister Ruairí Quinn's Office:

Phone: 01 618 3434

Write to Minister Quinn at The Department of Education and Skills, Leinster House, Dublin 2

Email: minister@education.gov.ie

Note: Other groups have found phone calls to be the most effective means of communication.

Tá Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge pléite go minic sa Nuachtlitir seo. Leanann na coistí idir-rannach ar aghaidh ag caint le chéile, mar a bhí sular cuireadh an straitéis le chéile.

Ag díospóireacht sa Seanad ar an 18ú Eanáir 2012 labhair an tAire Stáit Gaeltachta, Dinny McGinley TD, ar an Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge. Dheimhnigh sé go mbeidh a Roinn ag dul i gcomhairle le saineolaithe aitheanta pleanála teanga cosúil leis an Ollamh Colin Williams mar chuid den phróiseas comhairliúcháin ar athbhreithniú ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.

Thug an tAire le fios go mbeadh feidhmeanna fiontraíochta ag Údarás na Gaeltachta agus go gceapfaí príomhfheidhmeannach lánaimseartha buan ar an eagras. Ar cheist Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga áfach; ní raibh an tAire Gaeltachta soiléir an mbeadh an Rialtas sásta an cinneadh a rinne siad chun Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga a dhúnadh mar oifig reachtúil neamhspleách, agus a chuid feidhmeanna ar fad a chur isteach faoi Oifig an Ombudsman mar chuid dá phlean athchóirithe don earnáil poiblí, a tharraingt siar sna sála ar an athbhreithniú Achta. Tá sé deacair a shamhlú cén chaoi a bhfeidhmeoidh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla mar ba chóir, gan Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga reachtúil neamhspleách.

Tá sé dearbhaithe ag an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta gur seoladh thart ar 1,400 suirbhé comhlánaithe agus 240 aighneacht chuige faoin athbhreithniú ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003. Bhí Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo i measc na n-eagras a chuir moltaí ar aghaidh. Is féidir na haighneachtaí uilig le feiceáil ar shuíomh idirlíne na Roinne ag www.ahg.gov.ie

The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language has been extensively highlighted in various editions of this newsletter. Inter-departmental committees continue to discuss the strategy, as they did before it was published.

At a Seanad debate on 18th January 2012 the Gaeltacht Minister of State, Dinny McGinley TD, discussed The 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language. He confirmed that his Department would be consulting with recognized language-planning experts such as Professor Colin Williams as part of the consultation process for the review of the Official Languages Act 2003.

Minister McGinley confirmed that Údarás na Gaeltachta would retain its enterprise functions and that a permanent, fulltime chief executive would be appointed to the agency. On the question of the Irish-Language Commissioner's Office however, the Gaeltacht Minister could not clarify whether the government would, pending the review of the Languages Act, reconsider and revoke its decision to close the office of An Coimisinéara Teanga as an independent statutory office, and to transfer its functions to the Office of the Ombudsman as part of its public sector reform plan. It is difficult to envisage how the Official Languages Act will function in the absence of an independent, statutory Irish-Language Commissioner's Office.

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has confirmed that it received 1400 completed surveys and 240 submissions on the review of the Official Languages Act 2003. Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo was among the agencies that made recommendations. All of the submissions can be viewed on the Department's website www.ahg.gov.ie

Straitéis Siúlóide / Fáilte Ireland's Walking Strategy

Mar chuid de phlean Forbartha Chill Chomáin, agus le cabhair ó Chomhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo agus Fáilte Ireland, clárófar an tsiúlóid Lúb Phort a' Chlóidh (Ó Thrá Phort a' Chlóidh siar) mar shiúlóid aitheanta. Déanfar an cinneadh le toil an phobail amháin. Más maith le ball ar bith den phobal an moladh seo a phlé déan teagmháil le Treasa ag 097 88082 / 087 1251642 nó le hoifigeach forbartha siúlóide an Chondae Anna Connor ag 094 9024444.

As part of the development plan for the parish of Cill Chomáin, and with the assistance of Mayo County Council and Fáilte Ireland, the walk known as Lúb Phort a' Chlóidh (from Port a' Chlóidh beach westwards) will be registered as a recognised walk, with the goodwill of the community members. If any member of the community wishes to discuss this proposal please contact Treasa on 097 88082 / 087 1251642 or the County walking development officer Anna Connor on 094 9024444.

Grúpa ar Chuairt / Visiting Group

Thug grúpa scoláirí Meiriceánacha ó Scoil Thraenála Idirnáisiúna Bhaile Átha Cliath, in éineacht lena stiúrthóir acadúil Aeveen Kerrisk, cuairt ar pharóiste Chill Chomáin i mí Feabhra. Chas na scolairí, atá ina bhfochéimí ó ollscoileanna éagsúla sna Stáit Aontaithe, le daoine atá páirteach i bhforbairt pobail agus i gcúrsaí timpeallachta sa pharóiste. Eagraíodh léacht dóibh ar Sheandálaíocht Chill Chomáin le Diana Taylor le linn a gcuairt.

A group of American students from the School for International Training Dublin, accompanied by academic director Aeveen Kerrisk, visited the parish of Kilcommon in February as part of their academic studies in Ireland. The students, who are undergraduates from a variety of universities in the US, met with various individuals who are involved in community and environmental development within the parish. A lecture by Diana Taylor on the Archaeology of Cill Chomáin was organised during their visit to give an insight into the many ancient monuments which are dotted throughout the parish.

Glantachán Náisiúnta Earraigh / National Spring Clean

Tá an feachtas Glantachán Náisiúnta Earraigh, a eagraíonn An Taisce, ceithre bliana déag ar an bhfód i mbliana. 'Sé an feachtas is mó i leith chosc ar bhruscar in Éireann é, agus i rith mí Aibreáin iarrtar ar dhaoine ar fud na tíre páirt a ghlacadh san iarracht chun an timpeallacht a choinneáil glan. Tá ról ag chuile dhuine sa bhfeachtas agus má chleachtaítear nósanna mar laghdú, athúsáid agus athchúrsáil is féidir linn ár gceantar a choinneáil saor ó bhruscar dúinn féin agus do na glúnta atá ag teacht inár ndiaidh. Ba mhaith leis an gcoiste buíochas a ghlacadh le rannphairtíthe na Scéime Shóisialta Tuaithe as an nglanadh suas a rinneadh ar na tráanna agus le Pádraig Ó Gacháin ó Chomhairle Chondae Mhaigh Eo a thóg an bruscar ar siúl.

Now in its 14th year, An Taisce's National Spring Clean which runs throughout the month of April, is Ireland's biggest anti-litter campaign and encourages people to take pride in their local environment and take action against litter. By working together and putting into practice the three r's (reduce, reuse and recycle) we can make our area a cleaner place to live in for ourselves and for future generations. Let us all make an effort and together we can make a huge difference. The committee would like to thank the participants of the Rural Social Scheme for collecting refuse on the beaches and Paddy Joe Gaughan from Mayo County Council for disposing of it.

You can register for a clean up kit by contacting An Taisce on 01 400 2219 or e-mail nsc@antaisce.org or register online at www.nationalspringclean.org

An Dara Teampall ag Poll a' tSómais / Survey of Poll a' tSómais Second Graveyard

Tá Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo, i mbun suirbhé ar an dara teampall i bPoll a' tSomáis chun na huaigheanna uilig a mharcáil ar phlean agus stair an teampaill a bhreacadh síos. Amach anseo tá sé beartaithe an t-eolas a fhoilsiú i bhfoirm leabhair, cosúil leis na leabhair a foilsíodh ar Theampall Chill Ghallagáin i 2009 agus ar Shean-Teampall Chill Chomáin (Poll a' tSómais) i 2011. Má tá eolas nó grianghraif agat de do mhuintir atá curtha sa teampall cuir glaoch led' thoil ar 097 88082 / 087 1251642 nó 087 7928865.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is undertaking a survey of the second graveyard at Poll a' tSómais to mark the graves on a plan and record its history. At a future date it is intended to produce a book, similar to the Teampall Chill Ghallagáin book which was published in 2009, and the Cill Chomáin (Poll a' tSómais) Old Graveyard book which was published in 2011. If you have information or photographs (or memory cards) of deceased relatives who are buried in the new graveyard, and would like to have them included, please contact any of the following numbers 097 88082 / 087 1251642 / 087 7928865. All photographs will be scanned and returned.

Lá Oscailte / Open Day

Tá Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo ag eagrú lá oscailte in ionad pobail na Seanscoile i gCeathrú Thaidhg ar an 20ú Aibreán óna 2.00 i.n. go 8.00 i.n. Cuirfear eolas ar fáil ar ról an chomharchumainn i bhforbairt pobail, conas tograí a fhorbairt agus a bhainistiú, an ról atá ag eagraíochtaí eile stáit i bhforbairt pobail agus na scéimeanna éagsúla atá le fáil.

Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo is organising an open day in the Seanscoil community centre in Ceathrú Thaidhg on Friday 20th April from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Information will be available on the role of the co-operative in community development, how to develop and manage projects, the role of state-agencies in community development and the various schemes which are available.

Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge / European Certificate in Irish

Tá an cúrsa Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge faoi lánshéol in Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga na Seanscoile i gCeathrú Thaidhg. Dhá chúrsa atá ar bun – Leibhéal A1 le haghaidh tosaitheoirí agus Leibhéal B1 (meánleibhéal). Guíonn muid gach rath ar na foghlaiméoirí a bhéas ag tabhairt faoi na scrúdaithe i mí Aibreáin agus Bealtaine. Glacann an coiste buíochas le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta a dhéanann páirt-maoiniú ar na cúrsaí seo.

The European Certificate in Irish course is held in Ionad Seirbhísí Teanga na Seanscoile (Language Centre) in Ceathrú Thaidhg. Two courses are currently underway - Level A1 for Beginners and Level B1 (Intermediate). We wish the learners every success in their forthcoming exams in April and May. The committee would like to thank Údarás na Gaeltachta for part-funding these courses.

Higher Certificate in Workplace and Community Practice'

Beidh Equal Ireland agus Ionad Ealaíona Iorrais Teo ag eagrú an cúrsa 'Ard Teastas i gCleachtas an Ionad Oibre agus Pobail' atá dírithe ar dhaoine atá ag plé le tionscnaimh phobail, saoirí scéimeanna, bainisteoirí comharchumainn, clubanna spóirt agus a leithéid. Mairfidh an cúrsa thar thréimhse ocht mí dhéag (tá sé le haontú go fóill an cúrsa oíche nó Satharn a bhéas ann). Cáilíocht FETAC Leibhéal 6 atá i gceist agus is é costas an chúrsa ná €175. Tá tuilleadh eolais le fáil ó Orla de Búrca, Údarás na Gaeltachta ag 097 81418.

Equal Ireland and Ionad Ealaíona Iorrais are organising a course entitled 'The Higher Certificate in Workplace and Community Practice' which is directed at those who are involved with public projects, scheme supervisors, co-op managers, sports clubs etc. This is an 18 month course (it has yet to be decided whether it will take place at nights or on Saturdays). The course is FETAC level 6 accredited and the fee is a maximum of €175. For further information please contact Orla de Búrca, Údarás na Gaeltachta on 097 81418.

An Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe / The Rural Social Scheme



Tá plean oibre timpeallachta an chomarchumainn dá chur i bhfeidhm faoi Scéim Shóisialta Tuaithe Chill Chomáin, atá dá reachtáil ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Chomáin, faoi scáth Údarás na Gaeltachta. Is iad seo a leanas cuid de na hoibreacha atá ar bun faoi láthair:-

- * *Tógáil balla cosanta gar don Alt Mór i bPort a' Chlóidh (ceadaíodh €3000 faoi chiste Fhiontair Chomhraic Teo le haghaidh an tionscnaimh seo)*
- * *Bailiú bruscair ar thránna mar chuid den bhfeachtas Glantachán Náisiúnta Earraigh*
- * *Cothabháil ar shiúlóidí Ceathrú Thaidhg*
- * *Obair athnuachana ar ghairdín na Seanscoile i gCeathrú Thaidhg*

The Cill Chomáin Rural Social Scheme is managed by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Chomáin, under the auspices of Údarás na Gaeltachta, and includes an environmental enhancement workplan submitted by Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo. The following are some of the works been undertaken at present:-

- * The construction of a stone wall at Alt Mór in Port a' Chlóidh (€3000 was granted by the Fiontar Chomhraic Teo fund for this project)
- * Refuse collection at local beaches as part of the National Spring Clean initiative
- * Maintenance work on the Ceathrú Thaidhg walks
- * Enhancement works at the Seanscoil in Ceathrú Thaidhg

Tá tuilleadh eolais le fáil ó Phádraig Ó Dochartaigh (saoiste na scéime) ag 087 9785035

