**From:** [redacted]
**To:** forwardplanning
**Subject:** Aighneacht Choláiste Chamuis maidir le Plean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe 2022 - 2028
**Date:** Wednesday 9 September 2020 14:52:31
**Attachments:** Aighneacht Plean Forbartha na Gaillimhe 2022 go 2028 Coláiste Chamuis.pdf

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A Chara,
Féach iniata leis an ríomhphost seo, aighneacht Choláiste Chamuis maidir le Plean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe 2022 - 2028.
Please find enclosed the Coláiste Chamuis submission regarding the County Galway Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

Déan nóta le'd thoil go bhfuil an leagan Béarla den aighneacht seo á chur ar fáil mar chúirtéis teanga dóibh siúd nach bhfuil in ann an leagan Gaeilge a thuiscint. Is é an leagan Gaeilge den aighneacht an leagan údarásach.

Please note that the English version supplied is as a courtesy to those who cannot read the original version of this submission. The Irish language version is the authoritative version of this submission.

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**Aighneacht ó Choláiste Chamuis chuig Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe maidir le Plean an Chontae 2022-2028**

| **Nóta** | **Note** |
|---|---|
| Tá leagan Béarla den aighneacht seo á chur ar fáil mar chúirtéis teanga dóibh siúd nach bhfuil in ann an leagan Gaeilge a thuiscint. Is é an leagan Gaeilge den aighneacht an leagan údarásach. | English version below as a courtesy to those who cannot read the original version of this submission. The Irish language version is the authoritative version of this submission. |

**Cúlra Thionscadal na gColáistí Gaeilge agus an méid a chuireann an earnáil le saol pobail agus le géilleagar Chontae na Gaillimhe**

Chuile bhliain freastalaíonn c.6,500 scoláirí ó cheann ceann na tíre ar Choláistí Gaeilge i gceantar Chois Fharraige (Coláiste Chonnacht, Coláiste Lurgan, Coláiste Uí Chadhain, Coláiste Chamuis, Coláiste Chiaráin, Coláiste Cholumba). Chuile bhliain freastalaíonn c.4,650 scoláirí eile ó cheann ceann na tíre ar Choláistí Gaeilge sa gcuid eile de Chontae na Gaillimhe (Ceantar na nOileán, Camus, Ros Muc, Carna, Leitir Mór, Oileáin Árann).

Coinníonn c.350 teach lóistín scoláirí ó na Coláistí Gaeilge i gConamara faoi láthair. Choinnigh go hard os cionn 700 teach lóistín eile scoláirí in imeacht na mblianta.

Is Institiúid Chultúrtha ann féin iad na Colaistí Gaeilge agus deasghnáth tábhachtach aistrithe saoil do scoláirí na hÉireann. Feabhsaíonn earnáil na gColáistí Gaeilge iliomad gnéithe den saol i gContae na Gaillimhe agus go deimhin de shaol na tíre i gcoitinne:

1. Éiríonn thar barr leis na scoláirí an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim sna Coláistí. Bíonn tionchar dearfach teanga ag na Coláistí freisin ar scoláirí agus ar mhúinteoirí.
2. Bíonn tionchar dearfach maidir le tuiscint agus meas ar Oidhreacht agus ar Chultúr na hÉireann ag na Coláistí freisin ar dhéagóirí agus ar mhúinteoirí óga na Gaeltachta.
3. Bíonn tionchar dearfach sóisialta ag na Coláistí freisin ar scoláirí, ar thuismitheoirí, ar mhúinteoirí, ar mhuintir na dtithe lóistín agus an cheantair fré chéile.
4. Cuireann an earnáil fostaíocht fhorleathan dhíreach (múinteoirí, muintir na dtithe lóistín, fostaithe riaracháin) agus indíreach (tiománaithe busanna, glantóirí, bialanna, siopaí ceirde, tithe ósta, seirbhísí tacaíochta srl) ar fáil sa gceantar agus níos faide ó bhaile i gCathair agus i gCo. Na Gaillimhe.
5. Tá tionchar láidir eacnamúil ag na Coláistí ar an nGaeltacht agus is fiú os cionn €50m go bliantúil an tionscal ar fad do na Ceantair Ghaeltachta

(Freastalaíonn circa 55% de na scoláirí a théann chuig an nGaeltacht ar Choláistí Gaeilge i gCo. na Gaillimhe)

6. Luíonn Turasóireacht Chultúrtha na gColáistí Gaeilge go nádúrtha le hoidhreacht dúchais an cheantair. Tá forbairt eacnamúil na Gaeltachta ag brath go mór ar an Turasóireacht Chultúrtha seo. Tugann an earnáil deis do phobal na Gaeltachta an oidhreacht sin a chaomhnú agus a chothú i mbealach nádúrtha, inbhuanaithe agus dearfach.
7. Tugann na Coláistí Gaeilge deis insroichte ar leith do phobal uile na hÉireann, idir scoláirí, mhúinteoirí agus chuairteoirí, tuiscint agus grá a chothú d'oidhreacht shaibhir speisialta na hÉireann idir theanga, cheol, litríocht, mhaireachtáil tuaithe, na healaíona agus pobal ag maireachtáil as lámha a chéile. Tá tionscal na gColáistí bunaithe ar phríomhacmhainn na Gaeltachta, an Ghaeilge féin, agus tá sé d'aidhm bhunúsach ag na Coláistí Gaeilge cuidiú le polasaithe pleanála, buanaithe agus sealbhaithe Gaeilge sa nGaeltacht agus ar fud na tíre.
8. Áitíonn na Coláistí Gaeilge, sa gcomhtéacs seo, gur cheart go mbeadh polasaithe forbartha teanga agus cultúir sa nGaeltacht mar thosaíocht i bPlean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe 2022-2028 .
9. Bíonn na Coláistí Gaeilge i lár an aonaigh maidir le saol phobal na Gaeltachta agus bíonn sé mar aidhm acu i gcónaí cabhrú le caighdeán maireachtála níos fearr a chothú do phobal na Gaeltachta. Caithfear glacadh leis go bhfuil todchaí na Gaeilge agus todhcaí chultúr na Gaeltachta ag brath go hiomlán ar phobal na Gaeltachta. Faoi láthair, ní aithníonn an plean forbartha contae an Ghaeltacht mar phobal beo agus caithfear i bhfad níos mó a dhéanamh amach anseo chun infrastruchtúr na Gaeltachta a fheabhsú chun a chinntiú gur féidir le teaghlaigh le Gaeilge cur fúthu agus obair sa cheantar.

Is sa gcomhthéacs sin ba mhaith linn an aighneacht seo a chur i láthair Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus an Plean Nua Contae 2022-2028 á chur le chéile.

## 1. Cosáin Phoiblí, Conair Siúil agus Rian Rothair a chur ar fáil agus a fheabhsú chun Freastal ar Riachtanais Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta do Scoláirí Choláistí Gaeilge agus don Phobal i gCoitinne

Freastalaíonn c.6,500 scoláire in aghaidh na bliana ar na Coláistí Gaeilge sa gceantar ón Spidéal siar go dtí An Cheathrú Rua. Tagann na mílte cuairteoirí breise (idir thuismitheoirí, ghaolta agus iarscoláirí) ar cuairt ó chuile cheard den tír ar na scoláirí sna Coláistí Gaeilge chuile bhliain.

Mar ghnáthchuid de chúrsa sa nGaeltacht bíonn na scoláirí (atá faoi 18 bliain d'aois) go minic ag siúl ar bhóithre gan chosáin nó ar dhroch-chosáin, agus contúirt dá réir ann dóibh. Seo cúis imní do na Coláistí, do na tuismitheoirí agus do dhaoine muinteartha na scoláirí.

I rith na bliana bíonn muintir na háite ag siúl na mbóithre seo chuig na scoileanna, na hallaí pobail agus áiseanna eile pobail freisin.

Ba mhaith linn mar Choláiste Gaeilge iarratas a dhéanamh go gcuirfí san áireamh sa bPlean Contae cosáin siúil agus rothaíochta a chur ar fáil agus a fheabhsú (i) ar na

bóithre, agus (ii) le cladach, faoi mar atá marcáilte ar an léarscáil iniata, ar son sláinte agus sábháilteacht an phobail áitiúil, scoláirí na gColáistí Gaeilge, na dturasóirí, agus na gcuairteoirí ar na scoláirí sna Coláistí Gaeilge.

Faoi mar atá ráite sa bpáipéar saincheisteanna a d'eisigh an Chomhairle Chontae, tá sé d'aidhm ag an gComhairle Chontae infrastruchtúr a chur ar fáil chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghéilleagar an phobail agus chun caighdeán maireachtála an phobail a fheabhsú. D'fhéadfadh cosáin chearta siúil agus rothaíochta (bealach glas agus bealach gorm) seo a dhéanamh mar go gcabhródh siad go mór le tionscadal na gColáistí Gaeilge – atá ar cheann de na tionscadail is mó i gceantar Gaeltachta na Gaillimhe – agus le caighdeán maireachtála an phobail, mar go mbeadh sé sábháilte siúl ar na príomhbhóithre agus le cladach. Laghdódh sé an lorg carbóin freisin mar go mbeadh sé sábháilte siúl in áit a bheith ag úsáid carranna agus busanna.

Ar leathanach 14 den pháipéar céanna, cuirtear an cheist, "Cén chaoi ar féidir ceantair faoin tuath a fheabhsú trí dhearadh níos fearr?" **Freagra**: Chabhródh cosáin siúil agus rothaíochta (bealach glas agus bealach gorm) go mór le cur chun cinn an cheantair atá i gceist. Bheadh an fhorbairt seo feiliúnach don áit mar tá an-éileamh ann ar rianta siúil.

Cuirtear an cheist ar leathanach 18, "Céard iad láidreachtaí an Chontae maidir le gnó agus fás géilleagair sa todchaí?" **Freagra**: Tharla gur ceantar Gaeltachta é seo atá ar Shlí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin, ina bhfuil tábhacht ollmhór ag baint le Coláistí Gaeilge, chabhródh cosáin siúil agus rothaíochta (bealach glas agus bealach gorm) leis an tréimhse ama a chaithfeadh cuairteoirí sa gceantar a mhéadú agus le mealladh turasóirí i gcoitinne.

Cuirtear an cheist ar leathnach 18, "Cé na ceantair atá feiliúnach mar áit tharraingteach turasóireachta?" **Freagra**: An ceantar ón Spidéal siar go dtí An Cheathrú Rua. Tá na turasóirí ag dul go hÁrainn cheana féin (280,000 gach bliain) go Leitir Fraic agus An Choill Mhór (1milliún cuairteoir gach bliain). Ach cheal áiseanna ar nós óstáin, bialanna, áiseanna turasóireachta d'aimsir thirim agus d'aimsir fhliuch, is beag buntáiste iad seo do Ghaeltacht Chonamara mar go dtéann siad tríd an gceantar gan stopadh ann. Cuir cosáin shábháilte sa gceantar agus le cladach le hionaid do phicnicí, láithreacha sábháilte amhairc do bhusanna agus do charanna srl., agus fanfaidh siad níos faide sa gceantar. Tagann an cur chuige seo le straitéis Fháilte Éireann do dheisceart Chonamara agus Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin. Iarrann muid go dtacódh an Plean Forbartha Contae 2022 go 2028 le Plean Forbartha Turasóirí do Chonamara agus do na hOileáin de chuid Fháilte Éireann.

Cuirtear an cheist, "Cé na ceantair a d'fhéadfadh a bheith mar pháirt de shlí turasóireachta?" **Freagra**: Cosán siúil agus rothaíochta (bealach glas agus bealach gorm) le farraige ón Spidéal go Ros a' Mhíl agus as sin go Cuan Chasla agus chomh fada siar leis an gCeathrú Rua.

Cuirtear ceist ar leathanach 18 den pháipéar faoi "chomhcheangal úsáidí cónaithe, turasóirechta, eacnamaíochta". **Freagra**: D'fhéadfaí seo a dhéanamh tré chosáin a thógáil ar na príomhbhóithre agus le cladach a thacódh le tionscadal na gColáistí Gaeilge, leis an turasóireacht go ginearálta agus le caighdeán maireachtála phobal na

háite araon agus iad ag lorg seansanna sábháilte leas a bhaint as aer úr agus aclaíocht.

Cuirtear ceist ar leathanach 20 den pháipéar faoin gcaoi "ar féidir leis an bplean forbartha siúlóidí agus rothaíocht a chur chun cinn". **Freagra**: D'fhéadfaí seo a dhéanamh tré chosáin siúil agus rothaíochta (bealach glas agus bealach gorm) a thógáil ar na príomhbhóithre agus le cladach, a thacódh le tionscadal na gColáistí Gaeilge, leis an turasóireacht go ginearálta agus le caighdeán maireachtála phobal na háite araon. Faoi láthair, tá fadhb ollmhór ann le rothaithe atá thar a bheith líonmhar ar an R336 agus contúirt ann dóibh féin agus do lucht tiomána carranna agus busanna cheal lánaí cearta rothaíochta.

Cuirtear ceist ar leathanach 20 den pháipéar faoin gcaoi "ar féidir leis sábháilteacht daoine leochaileacha a úsáideann na bóithre (de shiúl cos nó ar róthair) sa gContae a fheabhsú". **Freagra**: Is den mhórthábhacht go dtógfaí cosáin siúil agus rothaíochta ar na príomhbhóithre agus le cladach a thacódh le tionscadal na gColáistí Gaeilge, leis an turasóireacht go ginearálta agus le caighdeán maireachtála phobal na háite araon. Bheadh siúlóidí sábháilte ann don phobal ar fad, agus go háirithe do sheandaoine, do dhaoine cithréimeacha agus do chlanna le páistí óga. Faoi láthair tá an suíomh ina bhfuil muid thar a bheith contúirteach.

Cuirtear ceist ar leathanach 26 den pháipéar: "An bhfuil tú sásta leis na háiseanna pobail agus cultúrtha i do cheantar?" **Freagra**: Tá easpa áiseanna sa gceantar inar féidir aclaíocht a chleachtadh mar chlann nó i d'aonar go sábháilte. D'fhéadfaí seo a dhéanamh tré chosáin siúil agus rothaíochta a thógáil ar na príomhbhóithre agus le cladach a thabharfadh an seans aclaíocht (siúl agus rothaíocht) a dhéanamh go sábháilte.

Tá sé níos tábhachtaí ná riamh anois agus muid ag maireachtáil le Covid 19 agus Coronavirus go mbeadh áiseanna poiblí (atá sábháilte agus taobh amuigh) ar fáil don phobal chun am a chaitheamh iontu agus aclaíocht a dhéanamh go sábháilte.

Cuirtear ceist ar leathanach 28 den pháipéar: "Cén chaoi ar féidir leis an bPlean Contae tacú leis an nGaeltacht chun a chinntiú go mbláthaíonn an ceantar go heacnamúil agus mar phobal?" **Freagra**: Tig leis an an gComhairle Chontae infrastruchtúr mar atá luaite san aighneacht seo a chur ar fáil chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghéilleagar an phobail agus chun caighdeán maireachtála an phobail a fheabhsú. D'fhéadfadh cosáin chearta siúil agus rothaíochta seo a dhéanamh mar go gcabhródh siad go mór le tionscadal na gColáistí Gaeilge – atá ar cheann de na tionscadail is mó i gceantar Ghaeltacht na Gaillimhe – le tionscal na turasóireachta agus le caighdeán maireachtála an phobail dúchais.

## 2. Stádas "snámha" do thránna in úsáid ag Coláistí Gaeilge

Is é sláinte agus sábháilteacht na scoláirí, na mball foirne, mhuintir an tí agus mhuintir na háite an chloch is mó ar phaidrín na gColáistí Gaeilge i gcónaí. Tá líon ard tránna sa gceantar atá in úsáid go rialta ag an bpobal, ag scoláirí agus ag turasóirí agus níl aon mhonatóireacht á déanamh ar chaighdeán uisce na dtránna sin. I bhfianaise an méid atá ráite ar leathanach 19 agus 20 den pháipéar, ba cheart stádas "snámha" a

thabhairt do chuile thrá a úsáideann an pobal agus scolairí ó Choláiste Gaeilge go bliantúil. (Féach ar Aguisín 1 den aighneacht maidir leis seo.)

Tá sé níos tábhachtaí ná riamh anois agus muid ag maireachtáil le Covid 19 agus Coronavirus go mbeadh áiseanna poiblí den chineál seo (atá sábháilte agus taobh amuigh) ar fáil don phobal chun am a chaitheamh iontu agus aclaíocht a dhéanamh go sábháilte.

Ba cheart áiseanna cearta parcála do sheirbhísí éigeandála agus áiseanna cearta dramhaíola a chur taobh leis na tránna aitheanta seo freisin.

### 3. Stadanna bus easbhóthair agus scáthláin bus

Cuirtear an cheist ar leathanach 14 den pháipéar "Cén chaoi ar chóir an tuath a fheabhsú trí dhearadh níos fearr?" Mhaolódh stadanna bus easbhóthair agus scáthláin bus lonnaithe in áiteanna sábháilte praiticiúla in aice le scoileanna, le hallaí pobail, le háiseanna poiblí agus le háiteanna straitéiseacha ar leith ar na bóithre an plódú tráchta agus an riosca sábháilteachta tríd an gceantar.

### 4. Feabhas a chur ar sholáthar lóistín a bhaineann le Coláistí Gaeilge

I bhfianaise thábhacht earnáil na gColáistí Gaeilge do ghéilleagar Chonamara, ba cheart breis tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil chun soláthar lóistín atá ar fáil do mhúinteoirí agus scoláirí sa todhchaí a mhéadú.

### 5. Feabhas a chur ar an R336

Is é an R336 an t-aon bhóthar a fhreastalaíonn go laethúil ar na mílte duine i gConamara atá

- ag obair soir ó Chonamara nó in aon ionad oibre lonnaithe in aice an R336,
- ag gluaiseacht ar aon chúis phearsanta
- ag gluaiseacht ar aon chúis phobail
- ag gluaiseacht ar aon chúis tráchtála
- ag gluaiseacht ar aon chúis a bhaineann leis na meáin
- ag gluaiseacht ar aon chúis oideachasúil
- ag gluaiseacht mar thurasóirí nó mar chuairteoirí

Go dáta tá moill 20 bliain le soláthar cuarbhóthair agus moill freisin ar fheabhas a chur ar an R336 idir an dá linn. I bhfianaise thábhacht an R336 do ghéilleagar Chonamara agus do chaighdeán maireachtála an phobail agus do dhea-eispéireas turasóirí (seo Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin), ba cheart caoi cheart a chur ar an R336 láithreach agus an bóthar a choinneáil ag caighdeán áirithe inghlactha fhad is atá an pobal ag fanacht ar chuarbhóthar nua.

### 6. Tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil chun lorg carbóin na gColáistí Gaeilge a laghdú

I bhfianaise thábhacht earnáil na gColáistí Gaeilge do ghéilleagar Chonamara, agus d'fhonn inmharthanacht na hearnála a chinntiú don todchaí, ba cheart breis tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil chun éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a chur chun cinn agus lorg carbóin áiseanna na gColáistí agus title lóistín a laghdú trí thacú le huasghrádú "glas" ar áiseanna na gcoláistí (idir leictreachas, theas agus uisce te).

## 7. Tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil do Choláistí Gaeilge chun dea-chleachtais sábháilteachta a chinntiú

I bhfianaise thábhacht earnáil na gColáistí Gaeilge do ghéilleagar Chonamara, agus d'fhonn inmharthanacht na hearnála a chinntiú don todchaí, ba cheart breis tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil do dhea-chleachtais maidir le sábháilteacht a bhaineann le háiseanna na gColáistí agus a bhaineann leis na tithe lóistín a chinntiú.

## 8. Tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil do na hallaí pobail agus d'áiseanna pobail

Tá earnáil na gColáistí Gaeilge ag brath go mór ar fháil a bheith acu ar hallaí pobail agus áiseanna pobail agus scoileanna sa nGaeltacht. I bhfianaise thábhacht na hallaí pobail agus áiseanna pobail chun inmharthanacht an phobail a chinntiú don todchaí, ba cheart breis tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil chun lorg carbóin na hallaí pobail agus na n-áiseanna pobail a laghdú trí thacú le huasghrádú "glas" (idir leictreachas, theas agus uisce te).

I bhfianaise thábhacht na hallaí pobail agus áiseanna pobail chun inmharthanacht an phobail a chinntiú don todchaí, ba cheart breis tacaíochtaí a chur ar fáil chun dea-chleachtais maidir le sábháilteacht a bhaineann leis na hallaí pobail agus na háiseanna pobail a chinntiú.

## 9. Córas ceart séarachais don cheantar

Tá sé deacair a chreidiúint cé go bhfuil fáil ar leathanbhanda snáthoptaice sa nGaeltacht go bhfuil easpa líonra bailiúcháin agus cóirithe fúiolluisce sa nGaeltacht. Is fadhb ollmhór í seo a chuireann stop le tógáil tithíochta nua agus a chuireann stop le crúthú agus bláthú gnó.

Ba cheart córas/gréasán séarachais bhrúchóirithe a chur isteach ó Bhearna go Carna chun a chinntiú go mbeidh infrastruchtúr ceart ann chun inmharthanacht pobail agus inmharthanacht eacnamúil na Gaeltachta a chinntiú. (Féach ar shampla Ghaoth Dobhair i nDún na nGall, áit a bhfuil Uisce Éireann ag maíomh gur eiseamlár é seo den chleachtas is fearr.)

Mar chuid den ghréasán séarachais bhrúchóirithe seo ba cheart gnáthóg bhogaigh chomhtháite (integrated constructed wetlands) a chruthú in aice le chuile bhaile beag (m.sh. Baile na hAbhann, ceantar na Ceathrún Rua srl.) Ba cheart ansin páirc phoiblí don phobal agus do thurasóirí a chruthú i ngach gnáthóg bhogaigh chomhtháite. Is iomaí sampla timpeall na tíre den chineál seo forbartha agus tacaíocht Uisce Éireann acu agus iad ag feidhmiú thar cionn.

Tá riar ionaid chóirithe séarachais ag Údarás na Gaeltachta sna ceantair atá zónáilte ina mbailte, ach níl aon fháil ag pobal na háite ar na háiseanna seo. Ba cheart don Chomhairle Chontae comhoibriú le hUisce Éireann chun an bealach is éifeachtaí a dhéanamh amach le gur féidir le hUisce Éireann seilbh a thógáil ar na hionaid sin agus iad a chur ar fáil don phobal.

Ina theannta sin, ba cheart go mbeadh riail chaighdeánach 100m i bhfeidhm ar fud an chontae maidir leis an bhfad idir aon ionad cóireála fuíolluisce nua agus aon teach cónaithe nó aon ghabhdóir goilliúnach ("sensitive receptor").

Tagann an cur chuige seo maidir le cúrsaí séarachais leis na ceisteanna ar leathanaigh 14, 16, 22, 25, 26, 27, agus 30 den pháipéar thuasluaite.

## 10. Cead Pleanála Tithíochta do Lucht Labhartha na Gaeilge sa nGaeltacht

Tá inmharthanacht pobail ar bith ag brath ar lánúineacha óga socrú síos ina gceantar féin agus clann a thógáil ann. Gan an athbheochan leanúnach nádúrtha seo tiocfaidh meath ar an bpobal, titfidh an daonra ann, ní bheidh fanta sa deireadh ach seandaoine agus imeoidh an dream óg as an áit.

Ina theannta sin, tiocfaidh meath ar na forais agus ar na hinstitiúidí agus ar na cumainn dheonacha a choinníonn pobal beo. Dúnfar scoileanna cheal uimhreacha. Dúnfar siopaí, tábhairní, bialanna agus gnónna eile cheal pobail. Ní bheidh dóthain daoine fanta le cumainn ar nós CLG agus a leithéidí a choinneáil ag imeacht. Dá bharr seo, tiocfaidh meath ar phobail agus caillfear an tsainiúlacht ar leith atá ag pobal Ghaeltacht Chonamara. Tá an meath seo thar a bheith soiléir cheana féin i gCamus, an ceantar inar thosaigh Coláiste Chamuis, áit a bhfuil laghdú suntasach ar líon na dtithe a choinníonn scoláirí.

Tá an cheist seo thar a bheith leochaileach i gcás phobal Ghaeltacht Chonamara. Gan lánúineacha óga ag socrú san áit agus ag tógáil chlainne tiocfaidh deireadh ar fad leis an nGaeltacht mar phobal beo teanga.

Má tharlaíonn sé seo tiocfaidh deireadh le tionscal na gColáistí Gaeilge mar nach mbeidh dóthain lóistín i dtithe ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar ghnáthurlabhra ar fáil do na Coláistí – buille marafach do ghéilleagar na Gaeltachta.

Mar sin, is den mhórthábhacht go mbeadh cead pleanála do thithe nua nó le cur le seantithe le fáil ag cainteoirí Gaeilge sa nGaeltacht.

Tá an leagan amach seo (lánúineacha óga le Gaeilge ag tógáil a gcuid gasúr tré Ghaeilge sa nGaeltacht) ina bhunchloch don phróiseas pleanála teanga atá ar bun faoi láthair sna pobail Ghaeltachta ar fad. Tagann sé seo le polasaí an Rialtais i Straitéis Fiche Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030.

**Moladh**: Ba cheart go mbeadh go mbeadh toibhde réamhaontaithe ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe i bhfábhar pleanála do thithe cónaithe i gceantair i gConamara a bhfuil pátrún chnuasach tithíochta seanbhunaithe iontu do:

- bhaill chlainne le Gaeilge ar mhaith leo cur fútha lena gclann
- bhaill chlainne le Gaeilge ar mhaith leo theacht ar ais abhaile lena gclann
- bhaill chlainne le Gaeilge ar mhaith leo theacht ar ais abhaile chun clann a thógáil
- bhaill chlainne le Gaeilge ar mhaith leo theacht ar ais abhaile chun cur leis an bpobal de bharr na scileanna atá acu
- bhaill chlainne le Gaeilge ar mhaith leo scoláirí a choinneáil do Choláistí Gaeilge

### 11. Ciste Pobail ag eascairt as aon fhorbairt fuinnimh in-athnuaite ar scála mór (os cionn 1 MW)

Ba cheart go mbeadh sé mar choinníoll d'aon fhorbairt fuinnimh in-athnuaite ar scála mór (os cionn 1 MW) go ndéanfadh an fhorbairt sin síntiús suntasach do chiste forbartha don cheantar áitiúil – ciste a mbeadh fáil ag grúpaí pobail agus Coláistí Gaeilge agus Scoileanna sa gceantar air chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghníomhaíochtaí pobail agus chun cabhrú le feabhas a chur ar áiseanna pobail agus go háirithe le hallaí pobail a choinneáil ar oscailt.

### 12. Tacaíochtaí do shealbhú agus daingniú chleachtais thraidisiúnta oidhreachta agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta

Ba cheart tacaíochtaí a chruthú chun cabhair straitéiseach agus airgeadais a chur ar fáil chun sealbhú agus daingniú chleachtais thraidisiúnta oidhreachta agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta a chinntiú, mar shampla, amhránaíocht ar an sean-nós, damhsa ar an sean-nós, bádóireacht (Húicéir na Gaillimhe), toibreacha beannaithe, oilithreachtaí, cleachtais chreidimh, ceol "tuaithe" i stíl na Gaeltachta féin, baint fheamaine srl.

### 13. Grúpa oibre áisíneachtaí rialtais

Faoi láthair tá ról suntasach ag na Ranna Stáit i saol na Gaeltachta. Ba cheart grúpa oibre a chur le chéile chun comhoibriú straitéiseach agus meitheal oibre níos fearr a chothú idir Roinn na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, An Chomhairle Chontae, Infrastruchtúr Iompar Éireann, An EPA, Uisce Éireann, RTÉ agus Foras na Mara.

### 14. Grúpa oibre le eagraíochtaí le an-seasamh sna meáin

Grúpa oibre idir TG4, RnaG, eagraíochtaí príobháideacha sna meáin agus insitiúidí cultúrtha eile maidir le bealach a aithint inár féidir tuiscint agus meas ar shaibhreas áiseanna cultúrtha na Gaeltachta agus ar shaibhreas oidhreachta na Gaeltacht a scaipeadh i measc phobal na tíre i mbealach dearfach agus oscailte.

### 15. Clúdach ghréasán fón so-ghluaiste

Tá fíor-dhroch-clúdach ag gréasán fón so-ghluaiste i gCois Fharraige faoi láthair. Ba cheart don Chomhairle Chontae dul i ngleic leo siúd atá i bhfeighil ar na seirbhísí teileachumarsáide chun feabhas a chur ar an ngréasán áitiúil.

## 16. Ganntanas uisce óil agus caighdeán uisce óil

Bíonn ganntanas uisce óil go rialta i gceantar Chois Fharraige. Bíonn fadhb le caighdeán an uisce óil freisin. Tá fadhb ar leith i gceantar Ros a' Mhíl agus i gceantar na Ceathrún Rua nuair a bhíonn na Coláistí Gaeilge faoi lánseol agus nuair a bhíonn uisce á chur go hÁrainn ó Ros a' Mhíl chun freastal ar an nganntan ann. Ba cheart don Chomhairle Chontae dul i gcomhar leis an bpobal, na Coláistí Gaeilge, Uisce Éireann chun an fhadhb seo agus na heaspaí infrastruchtúir a leigheas.

## 17. An Víreas Corónach: Covid-19

Tá na Coláistí Gaeilge ag dul i ngleic faoi láthair le tionchar agus impleachtaí an Víris Chorónaigh ar an nGaeltacht agus ar earnáil na gColáistí Gaeilge. Is í an cloch is mó ar ár bpaidrín sláinte agus sábháilteacht na scoláirí, mhuintir na dtithe lóistín, bhaill foirne agus mhuintir na háite. Iarrann muid, dá réir sin, go dtacódh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe le haon iarratais phleanála chun feabhas a chur nó leasú a dhéanamh ar áiseanna na hallaí pobail, na scoileanna nó ar áiseanna na gColáistí féin.

Sínithe thar ceann Choláiste Chamuis

Gearóid Denvir [redacted]

Máire Denvir

Seán Denvir

Siobhán Denvir

### Background to the Coláiste Gaeilge industry and it's contribution to the community and economy in County Galway

Each year, approximately 6,500 students from all over Ireland attend Irish colleges in the Cois Fharraige district (Coláiste Chonnacht, Coláiste Lurgan, Coláiste Uí Chadhain, Coláiste Chamuis, Coláiste Chiaráin, Coláiste Cholumba). An additional approx. 4,650 students attend Irish Colleges in other parts of County Galway (Ceantar na hOileán, Ros Muc, Carna, Leitir Mór and The Aran islands etc). Currently approximately 350 lodging houses host these students in Connemara. Up to 700 other lodging houses in Connemara have previously hosted students.

The Sector is a cultural institution and an important rite of passage for Irish students. The Irish College Sector continues to enhance many facets of life in Co. Galway and all over Ireland for Irish people in the following ways:

1. Irish Colleges create the environment for students to successfully learn Irish in a positive way.
2. Absorbing the language and Irish Culture and heritage in a positive way has a significant and very positive impact students, their parents, and teachers.
3. Irish colleges have a very positive social impact on students, young teachers, the host families and the local community.
4. The Irish College sector significantly contributes to direct and indirect employment in the Connemara Gaeltacht and further beyond into Galway city and county (teachers, host families, rental accommodation, administrative staff, bus drivers, cleaners, restaurants, artisan shops, pubs, activity centres, cinemas, hotels and support services etc).
5. The Irish College sector has significant economic impact on Connemara - it is annually worth over €50m to the Gaeltacht areas (approx. 55% of Irish College students nationally attend Colleges in County Galway).
6. Cultural Tourism is an important component of the Irish College Sector and the colleges are a natural extension of the areas' cultural heritage. The economic viability and growth of the Gaeltacht region largely depends on this unique interdependent nature of the Irish Language and the areas' cultural integrity. The Irish College sector creates an accessible opportunity for people from all over Ireland (students, teachers, visitors) to experience, to understand, to create and nourish a love for the rich heritage of the language, music, literature, the living arts, and a living language community.
7. The Gaeltachts' primary and most valuable resource is the Irish Language. The Irish College industry exists because of this resource. Irish Colleges seek to contribute to State language planning policies, State language stabilisation policies, State language retention policies and policies and practices that have an impact on the Irish language in the Gaeltacht and on a Country wide level.
8. The Irish college sector aims to help with Irish Language planning policies with regards to the preservation and growth of the Irish language over the country. In this context the Irish College Sector recognises that the Galway County Development Plan seeks to protect and enhance the Irish Language and Culture.
9. Irish colleges are at the core of day-to-day life the Gaeltacht and as a sector always aims to help improve the living standards for the Gaeltacht community. However, the Coláiste submit the language and the culture of the Gaeltacht cannot survive without the people/community. The current county plan fails to recognise that the Gaeltacht is a living breathing community and therefore much more needs to be done to enhance the infrastructure in the area so that Irish speaking families can live and work in the area.

It is in this context if Coláiste Chamuis would like to make the submission to Galway County Council with regards to the new county development plan 2022-2028.

1. **Provision and enhancement of public footpaths, walking trails and cycle paths (Greenways and Blueways) for Irish College students, for tourists and for the local community.**

Approximately 6,500 students attend Irish colleges in the area from Spiddal to Carraroe on an annual basis. Thousands of people (parents, relatives, friends, former students) travel to the area to visit these students during their stay every year.

Students (who are under 18 years old) walk the Connemara roads daily during the courses. There are no foot path or very poor footpaths on a significant portion of these roads. This is a safety concern for the Colleges and for parents and loved ones.

During the year the local community also walk these roads to attend schools, community halls and other public amenities.

In the interest of the health and safety of the students of Irish colleges, the local community, tourists and visitors we submit that the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 should make provision for the installation and enhancement of footpaths and cycle paths (i) along the roads and (ii) along the seashore as marked on the enclosed map.

The issues paper states that one of its challenges is "providing sufficient physical and social infrastructure to support economic development and to enhance our quality of life". Provision of footpaths and cycle paths (Greenways and Blueways) will do this as this would significantly help the Irish college industry which in turns economically benefits the community. Access to these community amenities also increases the local community's quality of life as it would be safe to walk/cycle on the main roads and use walking/cycling trails along the seashore. It would also reduce the carbon footprint as it would be safe to walk instead of using cars and buses.

Page 14 of the issues paper asks "how should the countryside be enhanced with better design?" We submit that the provision of footpaths, walking trails and cycle paths in the form of Greenways and Blueways along the coast would significantly enhance the South Connemara countryside. There is a substantial demand for such improvements within the local community and from the Irish College sector.

Page 18 of the issues paper asks " what areas of the County have the potential of become sustainable key tourism attractions and what areas within Galway have the potential to form part of the development of a comprehensive tourist trail within the County?". Answer: 280,000 visitors pass through the Cois Fharraige area from Spiddal to Carraroe annually on their way to visit the Aran islands and almost 1 million people travel through the area to the National Part and Kylemore. Currently this throughput is of little advantage to the area as the absence of hotels, restaurants and wet and dry weather tourist facilities means the dwell time for these visitors is low.

If the area had safe pathways, walking trails and cycle paths with additional amenities of picnic tables, viewing points for buses and cars and safe parking etc tourist dwell time would increase. This would also serve to meet the aims of the Fáilte Ireland tourism strategy for South Connemara and the Wild Atlantic Way. We submit that the County Plan should support the Fáilte Ireland Visitor Development Plan for Connemara and the Islands.

GCC asks on page 18 "how can the GDP policies help integrate enterprise land uses with other uses such as residential, transportation and tourism etc?" We submit that the provision footpaths on the main roads and walking trails by the seashore and cycle paths Greenways and Blueways would simultaneously support the local economy by boosting the Irish colleges sector and tourism in general whilst also improving the living standards of the local residential community and day trippers from the rest of county Galway looking for some safe fresh air and exercise opportunities.

GCC asks on page 20 of the issues paper "how can the safety of vulnerable road users (cyclists/ pedestrians) be improved?" We submit that through the provision of footpaths, walking trails and cycle paths greenways and Blueways. This would provide safe walking routes for the entire local community and for visitors and tourists especially old people and vulnerable people and people with young families. Off road bus stops and bus shelters would also contribute to the safety of pedestrians.

There is currently a major problem with the number of cyclists regularly using the R336 who are putting themselves in danger and also drivers in danger due to the current poor state of the road it's use being unsafe and unsuitable for cyclists.

GCC asks on page 26 of the issues paper "are you satisfied with provision of community and cultural facilities in your area?" We submit that there is currently a lack of facilities in the area where you can exercise as a family or on your own safely. This could be done by building footpaths walking trails and cycle paths Greenways and Blueways on the main roads and by the seashore which would give the opportunity to exercise safely.

Safe outdoor exercise is now more important than ever as we as a society battle Covid-19 and Coronavirus.

GCC asks on page 28 of the issues paper "how can we manage our cultural resources to ensure that the Gaeltacht economies and communities prosper in a sustainable manner?" We submit that if GCC provides the infrastructure outlined in this submission it would significantly help the Irish College industry and the wider tourism industry which in turn significantly supports and sustains the local economy in the Gaeltacht which will in turn help improve the living standard of the Gaeltacht community.

2. **Provision of "bathing status" to beaches in use by students of Irish Colleges, other tourists and the local community**

The health and safety of children and staff is fundamental to the Irish College Sector. There are a significant number of beaches in the area where the water quality is not monitored and where facilities are lacking. Given what GCC states on pages 19 and 20 of the issues paper, GCC should seek to ensure that "bathing status" is granted to every beach used by the public, by thousands of Irish College Students, by the local community and by tourists annually,.

Safe outdoor amenities are now more important than ever as we as a society battle Covid-19 and Coronavirus.

GCC should also ensure that there is adequate access and parking facilities for emergency services and appropriate waster disposal facilities at these designated bathing areas/beaches.

### 3. Off-road bus stops and bus shelters

GCC asks on page 14 of the issues paper "how should the countryside be enhanced though better design"

We submit that the provision of off road bus stops and bus shelters located at safe, practical and strategic locations along the R336 (i.e. at schools, community halls, other community facilities) would help ease the heavy traffic congestion on this road and improve the safety of the R336 for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

### 4. Improving the supply of accommodation in use in the Irish College Industry

Given the importance of the Irish College sector to the Connemara economy, additional supports should be provided to ensure the adequate supply of residential accommodation for teachers and students to accommodate future growth of the industry.

### 5. Improvements to the R336

The R 336 is currently the only main road in the Gaeltacht that serves the following users:

- People who are working East of Connemara
- People who work in locations along the R336
- People who are travelling for personal reasons
- People who are travelling for commercial reasons
- People who are travelling within the media industry
- People who are travelling for commercial purposes
- People who are travelling as tourists or visitors

To date, there has been a delay of over 20 years on the delivery of an alternative route or the enhancement of the existing road to ease traffic congestion and improve the standing of transport infrastructure in the Gaeltacht.

Give the importance of the R336 to the Connemara economy, to the quality of life of the local population and the importance of the route to Tourism and the Wild Atlantic Way, the R336 should be immediately repaired and maintained to an adequate acceptable standard while waiting for the new road.

### 6. Supports to reduce the carbon footprint of Irish colleges

Given the importance of the Irish College sector to the Connemara economy and the importance of ensuring the sustainability and viability of the sector, additional supports should be put in place to promote energy efficiency for "green" upgrading of College facilities and Irish College lodging/accommodation facilities (i.e. the use of renewable technology for electricity, heat and hot water) to help reduce their carbon footprint.

### 7. Supports to best practice in health and safety

Given the importance of the Irish College sector to the Connemara economy and the importance of ensuring the sustainability and viability of the sector, additional supports should be put in place to ensure best practice is achieved with regards to safety in Irish college facilities and Irish College lodgings/accommodation.

### 8. Provision of supports for community halls and community facilities

The Irish College Sector is heavily reliant on the use of community halls and schools in the area. Given the importance of community halls and community facilities to ensure the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the Gaeltacht Community additional supports should be put in place for "green" upgrading of community halls and community facilities (i.e. electricity, heat and hot water) to help reduce their carbon footprint.

Given the importance of community halls and community facilities to ensure the sustainability, viability and vibrancy of the Gaeltacht Community, additional supports should be put in place to ensure best practice is achieved with regards to safety in community halls and community

### 9. Public sewage network system for Connemara

It is hard to believe that the Connemara Gaeltacht has access to high speed fibre optic broadband and yet the area does not have a basic wastewater collection and treatment network. This is a major issue which restricts the delivery of new housing and business creation and expansion.

To ensure the sustainability of the local population and the economic sustainability and viability of the Gaelacht, a pressure sewage system should be installed from Barna to Carna (see Gweedore - which has similar challenges to the Barna to Carna area as an example – Irish Water view their work there on a pressure sewage network as "best in practice")

As part of this pressure sewage network the use of integrated constructed wetlands should be promoted in the area for each village and community. Public parks should then be constructed for locals and tourists alike on each of these integrated constructed wetlands. There are many examples countrywide of these types of developments that have the support and input of communities, county council and Irish Water.

The area already has numerous wastewater treatments plants however as these are held in Údarás ownership, the local community cannot access this infrastructure. We submit that GCC should work with Údarás na Gaeltachta and Irish Water to identify how this infrastructure can be transferred to Irish Water and made accessible to the public. In addition, there should be a uniform countywide standard of 100metres setback distance between residential/sensitive receptors and any new wastewater treatment plant.

This solution to current sewage issues satisfies questions posed by GCC in the issues paper on pages 14, 16, 22, 25, 26, 27 and 30.

## 10. Residential planning permission for Irish language speakers in the Gaeltacht

The sustainability of any community relies on the ability of young couples to settle in the area, raise children in that area and make a positive contribution to the community. Without continual renewal of this practice communities wither, population declines, and nothing is left in the end.

With this rural decline comes a decline in industry, in institutions and in voluntary groups that keep a community thriving. Schools close, shops close, restaurants close, other businesses close. Before long, this rural decline results in institutions like the GAA having insufficient members to keep going. The restrictive practices adopted by GCC currently is preventing renewal and preventing families being able to live in the Gaeltacht. The inability to secure planning permission for homes will result in the death of the Galway Gaeltacht community that will lose its uniqueness and distinctness. This situation cannot be allowed to persist. It must stop now.

This issue is particularly sensitive in a Connemara context. Without sufficient young families in the Gaeltacht the living community language cannot survive.

If this happens is will also be the end of the Irish College sector - as there would not be sufficient supply of lodging houses in which Irish is the 1st language. This would be a catastrophic blow for the Gaeltacht economy.

Therefore, it is critically important that planning permission for new homes or the refurbishment and expansion of old properties should be given to Irish language speakers in the Gaeltacht.

Young families living in the Gaelacht with a living community language is the basic premise of the process of language planning that is underway at the moment. This is Government policy under the 20-year strategy for the Irish language.

Solution: Where there is an established pattern of cluster housing within a locality, then GCC should adopt a presumption in favour of development of new residential homes within that area for

- families who want to raise their children as Gaeilge in the Gaeltacht
- families who wish to return home with their children to raise their children as Gaeilge in the Gaeltacht
- for people without children who wish to return home to contributes to their local community with whatever skills they have
- for families who wish to host students to support the Irish College sector

### 11. Community fund for large scale renewable energy developments over 1MW

It should be a condition of any large scale renewable energy development that a significant contribution is made to a local community development fund. This fund should be available for local community groups schools and colleges and used to support community activities and to improve community facilities.

### 12. Supports for the protection and preservation of Gaeltacht traditions, heritage and culture

Supports should be created to give strategic and financial aid to ensure the protection preservation and development of Gaeltacht traditions culture and heritage. For example specific supports should be introduced to help foster, protect and promote the traditions of sean-nós singing, sean-nós dancing, boating (Galway Hooker), boat building, patron days and festivals, holy wells and other religious practices, and Gaeltacht style country music, harvesting seaweed etc. all of which are an important component of the areas' deep religious , maritime and cultural heritage.

### 13. Working Group for State agencies

At the moment State agencies play a significant role in the Gaeltacht, however there is a clear lack of coordination and this should we addressed. A working group should be established to ensure better strategic cooperation, cohesiveness, and synergies between Roinn na Gaeltachta, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, An EPA, Irish Water, RTÉ and The Marine Institute.

State Agencies play a significant role in the Gaeltacht, however there is a clear lack of coordination and this should be addressed.

### 14. A working group with established and reputable organisations in the media

A working group should be established between TG4, RnaG, private organisations in media, film and cultural institutions to explore, identify and deliver ways to access the wealth of cultural heritage in the Gaeltacht so that it can be better understood, appreciated and enjoyed by all Irish people in Ireland and further afield.

### 15. Mobile Phone Coverage

The Cois Fharraige District currently suffers from very poor mobile phone coverage. GCC should work with Telecom Operators to promote the enhancement of the local network.

### 16. Drinking Water Shortages & Drinking Water Quality

The Cois Fharraige District regularly suffers from drinking water outages and shortages. There is also a recurring issue with the quality of the drinking water. The problem is particularly acute in the Rossaveal and Carraroe areas, when the Irish Colleges are in operation and when there are water shortages in the Aran islands since water is shipped from Rossaveal to the Islands. GCC should work with the community, the Irish Colleges and Uisce Éireann to address these infrastructure deficits.

### 17. Coronavirus – Covid 19

As the county grapples with the new challenges posed by Coronavirus, the Irish Colleges are evaluating how best to cope with this challenge, whilst ensuring the health and safety of students, staff and host families. We submit that GCC should support planning applications which seek to amend or enhance buildings and facilities at Community Halls, in Schools and Irish Colleges as may be required to address these new challenges.

Sínithe thar ceann Choláiste Chamuis

Gearóid Denvir
Máire Denvir
Seán Denvir
Siobhán Denvir