

# AR STÒRAS GÀIDHLIG

Geàrr-chunntasan raoin: Mòr-ionadan Cultarail Gàidhlig



Chaidh suirbhidh a dhèanamh air gach aon de na mòr-ionadan cultarail Gàidhlig san rannsachadh seo – An Lanntair (AL), Àros (A) agus Taigh Chearsabhaigh (TC) agus ged a tha iad ag obrachadh fada bho chèile gu cruinn-eòlach, tha iad ag obrachadh ann an co-theacsa ionadail far an robh iad a' faireachdainn gun robh a' chànan is a' chùltar gnèitheach a thaobh an gnìomhan. Bha iad, ge-tà, a' cumail a-mach gur dòcha nach biodh e an-còmhnaidh comasach an eileamaid Gàidhlig a lùghdachadh gu ìre far an gabhadh a thomhas.

Annas gach suidheachadh, bha iad gu fosgailte a' gabhail ri dreuchd na Gàidhlig gu h-ionadail a bha a' toirt buaidh air an gnìomhan agus mar a bha a' choimhearsnachd gam faicinn. Chaidh seo a chur an cèill ann an dòigh a bha caran eadar-dhealaichte leis gach buidheann, i.e. "Tha sinn a' faicinn na Gàidhlig mar dhòigh conaltraidh prionnsapalach gu h-ionadail airson ar gnìomh" (A); "Is i Gàidhlig cridhe is brìgh na coimhearsnachd an seo... Tha sinn a' dèanamh seo airson muinntir na sgìre sa chiad àite agus turasachd an uair sin" (TC); agus "Saoilidh mi airson gnothachasan nach eil a' tighinn beò airson Gàidhlig adhartachadh, tha e uabhasach duilich sgaradh a dhèanamh, a thaobh àireamhan is càileachd, dè tha a' Ghàidhlig a toirt dhuinn, ach a-mhàin gu bheil fios no faireachdainn againn gu nàdarra gu bheil rudeigin math a' tighinn às" (AL).

Chan fhacar ann an gin de na suidheachaidhean ceistean mòra sam bith air an adhbharachadh le bhith a' cur luach air na feartan de an cuid gnìomhan a bha gu tur Gàidhlig: "Uaireannan, bidh duilgheadasan againn a' feuchainn ri sgaradh a dhèanamh

eadar dè bhuineas do Ghàidhlig agus dè bhuineas do chultar. Ach, san fharsaingeach, cha bu chòir seo faicinn mar dhuilgheadas – 's e th' ann ach buannachd" (A). Annas gach suidheachadh, bha iad a' faireachdainn gur e pàirt de na bha gan cumail a' dol mar a bha a' choimhearsnachd ag aithneachadh na bha iad a' dèanamh tron chànan is chultar. "Tha an obair againn tron Ghàidhlig a' toirt buaidh mhòr air a' choimhearsnachd as fharsainge a thaobh mar a tha muinntir na sgìre ag aithneachadh leis a' ghnòthachas" (A).

Bha bunasachadh den chultar is chànan ann an dòigh a bha adhartach na lèirsinn na fheart eile a bha a' toirt air a' choimhearsnachd Gàidhlig faicinn na so-mhaoin gu h-ionadail: "Tha thu a' meudachadh miannan nan daoine òga gu bheil àm ri teachd aig an àite seo. Chan eil cùisean mar a bha. Tha seo a' buntainn riutha-san – tha eadar-dhealachadh ann a tha na thàladh dhaibh, chan eil seo mu dheidhinn 'mo ghranaidh'" (AL). "'S e is coireach gu bheil sinn a' faicinn uibhir de dhaoine a' tighinn tron doras gu bheil iad ag aithneachadh na tha sinn a' dèanamh" (A).

Tha iomradh ga thoirt air na buaidhean a tha nas cuimsiche anns an earrann air sgrùdaidhean-cùise fa leth san aithisg seo, ach an rud a tha cumanta mu dheidhinn gach mòr-ionaid gu bheil iad uile a' creidsinn gu bheil an gnìomhan a' toirt buaidh air taobh shòisealta nan coimhearsnachdan. Far a bheil buidhnean den aon mheud no nas motha na iad seo ag obrachadh ann an coimhearsnachdan den aon seòrsa, chan eil iad a' dol an lùib na coimhearsnachd no a' chànan, tha iad air am faicinn 'direach mar ghoireasan luchd-turais' (A).

Bhon fhianais a chaidh a thionail anns an rannsachadh seo, tha e coltach gur e an fheairt a tha a' dèanamh nam mòr-ionadan eadar-dhealaichte bho chàich an dòigh sa bheil na gnìomhan aca nan dearbhadh air cànan is cultar, ach ann an dòigh a tha air a dhèanamh ga rèir leis na coimhearsnachdan ionadail, mar sin a' tabhann àrainneachd eaconamach is shòisealta a tha seasmhach airson an obair a chur an gnìomh.

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Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean,  
Taigh Friseal, Sràid nam Manach,  
Inbhir Nis, IV1 1BA, Alba

t. **+44 (0)1463 234171**  
f. **+44 (0)1463 244469**  
e. **info@hient.co.uk**

In each case there was an openly stated acceptance of the role of Gaelic locally which had implications for their activities and how they were seen by the community. This was acknowledged in a slightly different manner by each, i.e. "We see Gaelic as a principled form of engagement locally for our activity" (A); "Gaelic is the heart and soul of the first and tourism second" (TC); and "I think for businesses that do not exist to promote Gaelic, it is very difficult to separate quantitatively or qualitatively what Gaelic brings other than that we know or feel instinctively that it brings something positive" (AL).

In no case did they see any real issues caused by the difficulties in quantifying purely Gaelic aspects of their activity: "Sometimes we might have difficulties in pinning down exactly what is Gaelic and what is culture. But in overall terms this should not be seen as a problem – it is a feature" (A). In all cases

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise,  
Fraser House, Friar's Lane,  
Inverness, IV1 1BA, Scotland

t. +44 (0)1463 234171  
f. +44 (0)1463 244469  
e. [info@hie.co.uk](mailto:info@hie.co.uk)

they felt that part of what kept them going was community identification with what they did through the language and culture. "Our work through Gaelic has a huge effect on the wider community in terms of locals identifying with this business" (A).

Anchoring the culture and language in a way which seemed forward looking was something else that made the community see Gaelic as an asset locally: "You're raising aspirations of young people that this place has a future. It's not what has been. It actually has relevance to them - it has a cool sort of difference, this is not about 'their granny'" (AL). "The reason we get such a high proportion of people through the door here is because they identify with us" (A). More direct impacts are mentioned in the individual case study section of this report, but common to the work of all the hubs are the belief that their activities impact onto the social side of communities.

Where other similar or larger sized organisations are active within similar communities but do not engage with the community or the language, they are 'seen just as visitor attractions' (A)

From the evidence gathered within this research, it would seem that the distinguishing feature of the Gaelic cultural hubs, is the manner in which their activities validate the language and culture, but in a way which is likewise reciprocated by the local communities thus providing them with a stable economic and social environment within which to operate.



Each of the three Gaelic cultural hubs surveyed within this research - An Lanntair (AL), Aros (A) and Taigh Chearsabagh (TC) although operating geographically distant from each other, operated within a local context where they felt that the language and culture were intrinsic to their activities. They did suggest however that it might not always be possible to reduce the Gaelic element to an easily measurable component.



Sector overview: Gaelic Cultural Hubs

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