

Press Release

www.logainm.ie

Sound files of Louth placenames

Visitors to www.logainm.ie can now listen to sound files of the pronunciation of 160 placenames in County Louth in Irish and English. The sound files contain the names of all baronies, civil parishes and electoral districts. Names of physical features are also included. Sound files are already available for placenames in Counties Waterford, Galway, Donegal, Kerry and Tipperary. Fiachra Mac Gabhann from *Baile Hagaird, Dún Dealgan* did the sound recordings for the placenames in Louth.

www.logainm.ie is a public website which provides the official Irish-language names of almost 100,000 towns, streets and post offices throughout the country. The placenames website has attracted 1,256,307 hits since its official launch on 1st October 2008. Placenames are most commonly searched for by their English version. The most-searched placename was Dublin, with 338 searches, Tallaght was in second place (251), and Blackrock came third (247). Swords came fourth, with 221 searches. The most frequently searched placenames in Co. Louth so far are Dundalk, with 172 searches, followed by Drogheda with 128, Ardee with 85 and Carlingford, with 78 searches.

Students, teachers, journalists, translators and others who need the authoritative Irish form of placenames can find them easily by searching on www.logainm.ie. The site is also of interest to people worldwide who are interested in the heritage, culture and geography of Ireland.

Minister Ó Cuív said: “In its short life so far, www.logainm.ie has been an overwhelming success. The addition of these new sound files for Louth placenames will benefit a wide variety of users and is an example of how technology can be used as an effective language tool. I wish both Fiontar and the Placenames Branch continued success in the development of this resource.”

Work on www.logainm.ie is ongoing and more placenames, sound files and new interactive features will be added to the website in 2009-2010.

www.logainm.ie is being developed by Fiontar, Dublin City University’s Irish-medium teaching and research unit, in collaboration with the Placenames Branch of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.