

Press Release

www.logainm.ie Sound files of Mayo placenames

Visitors to www.logainm.ie can now listen to sound files that have been added to 713 placenames in County Mayo. Sound files in Irish and English have been added to the names of the baronies, civil parishes and electoral districts as well as the names of some physical features. The names of the townlands within the Gaeltacht are also included. Sound files are already available for placenames in Counties Waterford, Galway, Donegal, Kerry, Tipperary and Louth. Póilín Ní Chiaráin from Dumha Locha, Gaoth Sáile, did the sound recordings for the placenames in Mayo.

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 1.9 million hits since its official launch on 1st October 2008. Placenames are most commonly searched for by their English version. The most-searched placename is Dublin, with 517 searches, Blackrock is in second place (375), and Derry is third (371). Tallaght comes fourth, with 351 searches. The most frequently searched placenames in Co. Mayo so far are Castlebar, with 222 searches, followed by Westport with 199, Belmullet with 191 and Mayo, with 175 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: "www.logainm.ie is an excellent online resource and since it was launched in October 2008, it has been a tremendous success. Our placenames are a fundamental and core part of our history and our identity, and this website makes the thorough research and archival data gathered by the Placenames Branch accessible free of charge to anyone, anywhere in the world. I am sure that many people will enjoy listening to the sound files of the Mayo placenames. My congratulations to both Fiontar and the Placenames Branch for making this website such a user-friendly, accessible and rich language resource."

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

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.