



2011 Census Luton's Irish join forces to 'Tick the Irish Box'!

Luton Irish Forum is collaborating with Irish groups and businesses including the Claddagh Gaels Ladies Gaelic Football Club, The Cavan Association, The Pines Hotel and local Parish Centres to raise awareness of the forthcoming Census and to provide support with filling in the Census forms.

Luton Irish Forum aims to better reflect the size of the Irish and Irish Traveller community in 2011, to ensure adequate funding is allocated by the government to the future services our communities require. The Campaign has been running since St Patrick's Parade Day on 12th March, followed by a 2 week road show. On 27/ 28th March, Census Stations will be run by LIF staff, Trustees and volunteers to assist community members with filling in their Census forms, ensuring second and third generation Irish have ticked the Irish/ Irish Traveller ethnicity box.

Venue	Address	Date
Holy Ghost Parish Centre	33 Westbourne Rd Luton LU4 8JD	27 th March 10.30 - 1pm
St Josephs Parish Centre	68 Gardenia Avenue Luton LU3 2NS	27 th March 2 - 5pm
Luton Irish Forum	14 Stuart Street Luton LU1 2SL	28 th March 10am – 4pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Centre	52 Castle Street Luton LU1 3AG	28 th March 1 – 3pm
Holy Ghost Parish Centre	33 Westbourne Rd Luton LU4 8JD	28 th March 1 – 3pm
The Pines Hotel	10 Marsh Road Luton LU3 2NH	28 th March 7 – 9pm

Noelette Hanley, Regional Census Champion for the East Region and Chief Officer of Luton Irish Forum said 'Census statistics help decide the amount of funding allocated to services and facilities such as schools and hospitals. In Luton only 11,404 were identified as White Irish out of a potential 26,677 in the 2001 Census. This means that the needs of over half the Irish community in Luton were not highlighted and potentially are not being met. Irish community members have a very important role in encouraging their family members and Irish friends to tick the Irish ethnicity box. Everyone needs to take part so that the services and facilities the community uses can be identified and funded, not only in Luton but across England and Wales'.

Tom Scanlon, Public Relations Officer of Luton Irish Forum said 'Only 7-8% of second generation people of Irish descent in Britain actually chose Irish identity in the 2001 Census. The lack of recognition accorded to these generations will remain a key issue in establishing identity, as generations often tend to share health problems and social tendencies. We are very grateful to our Parish Centres for hosting Census Points, and hope that many more of our children and grandchildren will identify with their Irishness'.

Ends

Notes:

- The national Census takes place every ten years and is a count of every person living in the UK. Census Day is the 27th March 2011. Every household will receive a Census form in March. For the first time it will be possible to complete the Census on-line via the internet as well as returning a form by post. You will be able to complete the questionnaire on paper and return it using a Freepost envelope. Alternatively, each form will have a unique internet access code and you can respond on-line. Completion should take around 10

minutes for each person (less for children), plus an extra few minutes to answer the questions about the household.

- Everyone living or staying in the household on Census Day must be included on your questionnaire - even babies. You should also include any visitors staying with you overnight on Census Day. In April & May Census Collectors will also be calling on households who have not returned a Census form to encourage and help them.
- Census data is used to allocate money to Luton for local services in the next 10 years. These include health, the emergency services, schools and colleges, housing, roads and public transport and other services provided by Luton Borough Council such as sports and leisure facilities. Businesses also use Census information to help plan where to provide jobs and facilities such as shops.
- This forms part of a national campaign spearheaded by the Federation of Irish Societies to challenge previous under representation of Irish people of all generations in the Census and better reflect the size of the community in 2011, to ensure adequate funding is allocated by the government to the future services it will require. To date, the campaign has won the support of Irish celebrities, industry leaders and influential members of the community.
- Census data is kept confidential for 100 years.
- Help is available if you have questions or difficulties in completing the Census form.
 - Online help at www.census.gov.uk (English)
 - Text Relay 18001 0300 0201 160
 - Census helpline 0300 0201 101 from 4 March