

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

11 March 2024 at 2pm
Microsoft Teams

MINTUES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Glynog Davies	GD	Plaid Cymru (Chair)
Cllr. Andrew Davies	AD	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Carys Jones	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Jean Lewis	JL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Labour
Cllr. Kevin Madge	KM	Labour
Cllr. Sue Allen	SU	Independent
Officers		
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Involvement Manager
Sioned Raymond	SR	Graduate Policy Officer

Num ber	Text and action points	In charge
1.	Welcome and Apologies Kelly Morris (Welsh Language Learning and Development Advisor) from the Council and Llyr ap Dafydd Jones from the Welsh Department in Welsh Government were welcomed to the meeting to present, as requested by Members. Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths and Gwyneth Ayres.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting Cllr Jean Lewis proposed that the minutes were an accurate record and Cllr Sue Allen seconded.	
3.	Presentation – Welsh for Carmarthenshire businesses Kelly Morris explained that she has been working with County businesses for about 6 months now with the aim of transferring what we do with Council staff to the businesses in Carmarthenshire. As a Council we are eager to provide support to the businesses and to give them confidence to use the Welsh Language in the workplace. The businesses that had put in applications for ARFOR grants were given the opportunity to have their say. One of the points raised through the applications is that there needs to be more support in terms of practical use of the Welsh Language and how it is possible to increase use within the businesses.	

	<p>Moving on from this, Kelly held 1-on-1 conversations with many of the businesses. What emerged is that many are eager to give the opportunity for their staff to be able to use more Welsh which will benefit them when doing tasks such as translating food menus.</p> <p>From the information received they created a four-part action plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting businesses 2. Increasing Language Skills 3. Apprenticeships, Work Experience, Training 4. Trade <p>The Mentrau Iaith in Carmarthenshire also do a lot of work with businesses and in the near future Kelly will be meeting with them to see how they can move forward and work together.</p> <p>Kelly explained that as a Council, we have benefited from Cymraeg Gwaith funding, with many Council staff having been on the courses. Kelly held discussions with the Learning Centre to see if the Council would be able to hold the sessions for the businesses to give them the opportunity to do the courses. Kelly held briefings with the businesses, 48 of whom showed interest to do the courses.</p> <p>From those who showed interest, most said that weekly sessions would work best, with the majority willing to commit to about 3 hours a week. The sessions will begin in April with 25 learners from the County's various businesses taking part. Here's how the sessions will run:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monday Morning - 09:00-12:00 2. Tuesday - 17:00-20:00 3. One hour of self-study session per week <p>Those who will be participating in the courses said that they would like to meet in person and have some virtual classes. The sessions will reflect their aim which is to provide a bilingual service.</p> <p>The long-term intention after the course is that they progress on to the next levels.</p> <p>Councillor Glynog Davies thanked Kelly for her thorough presentation and noted how gratifying it was to see the ambition businesses have and the desire to learn and develop the language. It was noted that it's important to raise confidence and give young people the opportunities to speak Welsh in public.</p> <p>Councillors echoed their thanks to Kelly for all the work with the businesses and how positive the work that has been done so far is.</p> <p>The Panel accepted the report.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Place Names Presentation</p> <p>GD welcomed Llyr ap Dafydd Jones from the Welsh Language Unit at Welsh Government to give a presentation on place name policies.</p>	

The government is working specifically on an action programme to protect Welsh place names. The agreement is to act to ensure that Welsh place names in the built and natural environment are safe and promoted for future generations.

Llyr explained the context of the policy:

- Welsh 2050: Theme 3 - Infrastructure and Context
- Welsh 2050: Action Plan 2021-26
- Welsh Communities Housing Scheme (2022)
- Welsh Language Infrastructure Policy (2023)
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016/2023
- Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015 (Local Authorities, National Parks, Welsh Government).

It has been noted that there are different types of place names, the main ones are noted below:

- Settlement names (villages, towns, cities)
- Property names (including houses, farms, and other buildings)
- Business names (including pubs, shops etc; brown signs)
- Names of geographic features (mountains, lakes, waterfalls, fields, etc.)
- Development and street names

Many are historical names, and it has been stressed that all names come with different issues to resolve.

There are a number of organisations attached to place names, the main bodies are set out below:

- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Sub -Division Welsh 2050, Welsh Government
- Cadw, Welsh Government

There is significant overlap between these areas, and the work is being brought forward collaboratively.

Llyr underlined what the Government are doing, noting that it is commissioning research to enable them to develop policy interventions to protect names in all parts of Wales. Some of the research aims are:

- Find out where, how and why property names change.
- Understand current local authority methods and policies for tillage and property name change requests.
- Get a better understanding and why some business owners want to replace existing Welsh property names.
- Identify Welsh topographic name changes, why these occur and the exact nature of these changes.

To protect place names the Government are:

- Working with partners and businesses to protect geographic names.
- Consider the use of covenants to protect house names.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the use of conveyancing packages to raise awareness of the name value of a particular property. <p>Llyr indicated that he was open to any ideas and that if members of the Panel wanted any further information they could contact on: Cymraeg2050@llyw.cymru</p> <p>GD thanked Llyr for his powerful presentation and stressed the importance of protecting our place names and the need for us to work together with the Government.</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Davies asked about the possibility of creating a public campaign to inform residents before they make the decision to change the name of a place. Llyr responded by saying it was a good idea, and that the idea could be passed on to television companies such as the BBC.</p>	
5.	<p>Welsh Language Update</p> <p>Members of the Panel have been informed of the next meeting of the Welsh Language Forum, which is on Friday, 22nd March. The theme of the meeting will be based on Early Years.</p> <p>It was explained that the ARFER programme which is run by Bangor University is starting in DMT and School Improvement Departments. The aim is to put language interventions in place to encourage more staff to use more Welsh in the workplace.</p>	
6.	<p>Any other mater</p> <p>No other issues were raised.</p>	
7.	<p>Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>8th July 2024</i> - <i>21 October 2024</i> 	