

**DALVA AN YETH KERNEWEK
CORNISH LANGUAGE FORUM**

**Kovnotyansow an kuntelles synsys: 3 mis Hedra 2015
Draft Minutes of the meeting held: 3 October 2015**

No.	Item	
1.	<i>Dynnargh / Welcome</i>	
	<p>The Chairman, Merv Davey, welcomed everyone to the first Cornish language forum. He noted that the meeting would be conducted principally in English, but that the intention was to use translation equipment in future, given the right venue and available translators.</p>	
2.	<i>Framweyth an Dhalva / Forum Terms of Reference</i>	
	<p>The terms of reference had been sent out ahead of the meeting. The Grand Bard emphasised that the forum's views would be articulated through the minutes; he was not intending to write reports for the language forum, and would be acting not as a mediator, but a facilitator.</p> <p>The purpose of the forum was to provide a place for the exchange of ideas, exercise the democratic process and return suggestions to the council.</p>	
3.	<i>Derivas Kemmyn ha Keskows / General report and discussion</i>	
	<p>Jenefer Lowe presented an overview of the progress, made in implementing the Iaith report and the programme of work deriving from it.</p>	
a.	the Akademi Kernewek	
	<p>It was announced that Jori Ansell had been appointed as chair of the Akademi Kernewek. He had been meeting with a shadow board with the aim of getting the structure of the Akademi in place.</p> <p>Jori reported that: the Akademi Board would include a chairman plus four general members, plus the Panel Chairs who would serve as ex-officio board members; three had been confirmed and another was still to be selected.</p> <p>Ken George had taken on the responsibility of chairing the Research panel</p>	

Nev Meek would continue to chair the Signage panel, the work of which was expected to continue along the lines already set.

Apologies were given for the assumption having been made that the signage panel members would be absorbed into the academy.

The Dictionary panel chair had not yet been selected. Tony Hak had been approached for the role, but felt he could not give enough time and do justice to the role given the many other commitments he already makes to the language.

Pol Hodge had agreed to chair the Terminology panel. It was recognised that although there had already been much work done on this subject, it had been a fragmented approach. Semantics was one aspect emphasised during the meeting. This panel would need to work closely with the dictionary panel.

Steve Harris had expressed willingness to use his IT skills to assist with Akademi related work.

The next stage would be for each chairperson to select around 5 people for their panel; anyone interested was asked to get in touch so that their interest was noted. There would need to be cooperation between all the groups. The first meeting of the Akademi was still to be confirmed.

Q: Would the Panels of the Akademi be able to use the translation service's work?

There would be strong links forged between the translation service and the Akademi. Neologisms had been extracted and recorded over the years that the service had been running and there were probably more that had been overlooked and should be identified. Appropriate software would need to be identified to make this a viable project. Albert Bock, the SWF dictionary editor had been looking at software and would work with Steve Harris to find an integrated approach to

		<p>the variety of software available to make all aspects of the academy more effective.</p> <p>It was noted that the signage panel's work was uncovering the meanings of words previously unknown in Cornish and this would also need to be captured.</p> <p>Q: What is the corporate structure of the academy?</p> <p>The laith report suggested that the academy should be independent, with a suggested core budget of £30k, with the possibility of negotiating for additional options to grant fund specific work. The academy could become a CIO (Community Interest Organisation) or a charity. It could also become part of another charity; the options were being examined by Cornwall Council's legal department. The structure was considered a high priority and would be worked on as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Q: Officers of council have been critical of the government for funding the language on an ad hoc annual basis. Will the Council therefore extend this principle to guarantee forward funding for the Akademi?</p> <p>While funding would be discussed later in the meeting, it was noted that the language forum would not be funded for less than 2 years in the first instance.</p> <p>Q: Doesn't the council have a responsibility to sustain the academy?</p> <p>The council was in year two of a four year budget, in which the contribution to language was £30k. A further increase to the budget would be difficult with spending cuts.</p> <p>Glenn Caplin (Economic Development & Culture manager) and Julie Seyler (Culture Programme Manager) were introduced to the attendees.</p>	
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Q: Isn't it short sighted to re-organise the structure when the funding isn't in place?

The decision to alter the structure was made earlier in the year with the partnership; the language was not expected to receive a spending cut, but this could only be confirmed once the announcement is made in November.

The council was close to getting a 5-year funding deal included within the Deal for Cornwall, but was eventually unsuccessful. A meeting with Civil servants was planned for the end of October to discuss future arrangements. Cornwall Council was taking an optimistic view of the outcome and was therefore agreeing to a 2-year funding deal for the Akademi.

Q: A 5-year agreement would surely be the minimum, what would the effectiveness be of a 2-year funding deal?

A 5-year deal would be the ideal outcome, but Central government funding cannot be anticipated before an announcement.

An announcement would be made after the comprehensive spending review to make the case within Central government. The amount under discussion was £150,000 per year.

Q: In the most extreme case and if government money is cut totally; is the funding for the Akademi entirely dependent on the funding to the Cornish language?

If the academy was maintained, it would mean that there was no other funding for a language lead officer as the council contribution was £30K overall. Hence there would be a choice between a language officer or maintaining the Academy.

		<p>Q: Why was the translation service outside the academy?</p> <p>Iaith had suggested that the translation service should be independent as the Akademi would be responsible for monitoring and reviewing standards of translation in general. For the Akademi to run a service itself would not therefore be sensible. Discussions around the translation service had agreed that it should be left outside the academy. There would however be strong links established between the translation service and the Akademi and any other practising translators.</p> <p>Q: If the Akademi was monitored via an SLA, who would be responsible?</p> <p>The lead officer within the council would be responsible for ensuring that the work is completed. The funding & SLA would be drawn up against an agreed work programme. The SLAs might only reflect some of the entire work programme, but the funding would be linked to it.</p>	
	b.	The Cornwall Council Language Plan	
		<p>The council policy was refreshed at the end of 2013 and included a commitment to work towards a language plan; Iaith also said that a plan should be put in place, aimed at increasing the use of Cornish within the council.</p> <p>The draft document went out with papers ahead of the forum meeting. There would be a PAC (portfolio advisory committee) meeting on the 6th October before going to cabinet on the 4th November. If agreed, the plan would come into force in 2016.</p> <p>It was emphasised that this was a plan for the Council's own use of Cornish, not for the development of the language as a whole. That would be the operational plan in support of the strategy.</p>	

Discussion

There was some concern at the lack of information around the education and community support sections.

At the community level, it would be an influencing role, i.e. how the community could engage with Cornish. It was noted that it is very difficult to promote the use of Cornish with partners if the council doesn't already have its own plan in place; this would be the first step. General guidance would be developed by the language office before being developed by specific departments.

Re: education. It was noted that the Cornish language had only recently been included in a small way in teacher training through the efforts of the MAGA education officers.

There was concern expressed that the council's localism team may not realise the work that is already going on in the community. It was noted that this was why language awareness sessions had also been included in this plan.

There would be a meeting arranged with Rob Andrew, head of the localism unit, to talk about increasing awareness.

At the recent Cornish Gorsedh meeting about the framework convention, John Pollard made a strong commitment to the framework convention.

Q. Would it be possible to have people speaking Cornish to provide services?

It wouldn't be possible to provide this as there isn't the critical mass of speakers at this stage. It may be appropriate to write in an aim, tying this in to the framework/European charter.

It was noted that moving Cornish to part 3 of the charter for regional minority languages had been missed in the plan; this could be included in the revision.

	<p>It was suggested that sections that feature “consider” and “encourage” could be re-written with stronger wording.</p> <p>The Cornish language plan aimed to put the language on a par with other indigenous languages in the UK, where local authorities have language plans in place at various levels depending on the degree of development.</p>	
c.	provision for Education work	
	<p>Adult Education</p> <p>The ACLT (Association of Cornish Language Teachers) was a new organisation designed to bring together teachers of Cornish. It had been agreed that the responsibility for evening classes and training days would be passed to the ACLT under an SLA together with a budget to support the work. This would also include mentoring classes and monitoring activity through surveys.</p> <p>Detail for this work plan was not in place for the meeting, but any work to maintain and progress the current provision of Cornish language adult classes in this area currently provided by the language office, would now become the responsibility of the ACLT. The budget would be taken from the existing MAGA budget which does allocate funds for the support of evening classes. It was recognised that this work was being done by the voluntary sector and that would be supported fully in the budget.</p> <p>There was a suggestion for the adult education booklet produced by Cornwall Council to provide a reference explaining that although it isn’t provided by the council service, the public could contact the ACLT/MAGA for further information.</p> <p>Other education</p> <p>Education provision was recognised as an integral part of the MAGA office’s output.</p> <p>This was a package of work which would now be delivered externally and would probably require a new organisation. The academic year had already</p>	

		<p>started and the current education officers' were due to finish at the end of November. This work would be a large scale project and work contracts would be extended until the work could be transitioned effectively with no stop in service.</p>	
	d.	Staffing structure	
		<p>Matt Blewett left the MAGA office in July 2015, the education officers Mike Tresidder and Pol Hodge would be going later in the year and Jenefer Lowe had decided to take the opportunity move on and would be leaving at the end of December 2015. Sam Rogerson was confirmed in post and would be continuing to work for the language and culture teams.</p> <p>Julie Seyler extended her thanks to the staff team for their continued work and expressed her belief that all of the team were essential for the continued work on the language.</p> <p>The new language lead job was announced, and would start to be advertised in the following week. The council was aware of the specialist nature of the language lead role and it would be advertised through the specialist networks. The development process for the office would depend on the individual appointed.</p> <p>Cornwall Council needs to provide a fair application process, which would need to be advertised publicly. There is currently no 'plan b' in place if no one applies for the post or no appointment is made.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the language requirements for the lead officer, querying the managerial/strategic overview perhaps being a higher priority over fluency. A community voice would be sought during the appointment process.</p> <p>There had been discussion with the education department within Cornwall Council, but they were unable to redeploy the MAGA education function within their team.</p> <p>Concerns were raised that no one had expected the council provision of language officers would go down</p>	

	<p>so much and there was concern that the status within the council would be diminished as a result. If all education function were removed from the office, the status would be further reduced and there would no longer be a strategic function for the team.</p> <p>In response, it was noted that the laith report was being partially enacted, but with a greater integration with the language and economic development teams. There would also be more support within the department and a broadening of activity.</p> <p>As there was no appetite to integrate education within the council, the next option was to provide the service externally. The education provision would be monitored and any issues addressed if it is externalised.</p> <p>Both Glenn Caplin and Julie Seyler had spent a long time with laith outside of the public consultations; the education contract would be a 2-year programme to begin with. The main emphasis from laith was on the pre-school sector, but there would need to be a steer as to where the focus of the activity should lie.</p> <p>There were suggestions around developing language plans for academies as they can set their own curriculums. The current provision provided by CC however was not receiving much take-up, so offering Cornish through this method might not be the best way forward.</p> <p>The council had been looking at the wider community, what the framework commitments were and how Cornwall was working with the Council of Europe. Matt Barton was named as lead officer for the framework.</p> <p>The reintroduction of a Cornish GCSE was discussed as a desirable target, but it was explained that information from DfE had been consistent in saying there would not be an increase to the number of languages currently offered at GCSE. This was a wider problem in that other community languages were also being excluded; until there was a general</p>	
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	<p>movement on this, further progression was unlikely.</p> <p>The WJEC exam system was a very easy and cheap system which had now been extended to Cornish. Only entry level available was available initially, but levels 1 and 2 would be available shortly, with Level 2 equivalent to a GCSE.</p> <p>Garry Tregidga from the Institute of Cornish Studies had expressed an interest in working with language institutions.</p>	
e.	Future funding	
	<p>In response to the community funding suggested in the Iaith report, the 'social activity innovation fund' was distributed to the forum attendees.</p> <p>This form would be made available to download on the MAGA website from Monday 5th October. The deadline for entries was set for Monday 16th November.</p>	
4.	<i>Kuntellesow a dheu / Future meetings</i>	
	<p>Agenda items were requested to be submitted well ahead of the next meeting.</p> <p>The next language forum meeting was provisionally agreed for Saturday 12th March, but an earlier meeting may be convened in the event of an announcement around funding.</p>	