

Kovnotyansow / Minutes

Meeting Title: Dalva an Yeth Kernewek / Cornish Language Forum
Date: 23 mis Ebrel 2016 / 23 April 2016
Time: 10.00-13.00
Location: 2N:03, Lys Kernow, Truro / 2N:03, County Hall, Truro
Chaired by: Merv Davey (Bardh Meur / Grand Bard)

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1 **Dynnargh gans an Bardh Meur** ***Welcome by the Grand Bard***

The Grand Bard welcomed everyone to the language forum.

In light of the government announcement on 13/04/2016, all of the organisations present were asked to publicly express their dissatisfaction.

2 **Kovnotyansow ha materow ow sordya** ***Minutes and matters arising***

There was a misattribution on page 3 of the last forum Minutes dated 3/10/2015. In the answer to the question asking if Cornwall Council would guarantee Akademi funding, "... the language forum would", should have read "... the Akademi would ..."

- Concern was expressed that reports from Cornwall Council on progress with the language plan had not been circulated before the meeting. There was a request to clarify the role of the Chairperson and whether they had attended an LPP meeting.
 - Iaith's report suggested the Grand Bard should be providing an annual report to the forum, with another from the councillor responsible for the language.
 - The Grand Bard restated his intention that the role would be that of a facilitator. He was not intending to be writing

full reports on the work of the language office.

ACTION: There was a motion that expected reports would be made available a month before the meeting; this would include a portfolio holder's report and comments from the Grand Bard on the minutes.

MT/MD

- There had not yet been any Language Policy and Planning (LPP) meetings convened.
 - This would be discussed later in the meeting.
- The operational plans for 2015/16 and 2016/17 had not been provided ahead of the forum meeting.
 - When Iaith produced their first strategy document, another transitional plan was requested from them. The majority of the work outlined had been held until the government contribution was confirmed.
 - Part of the transitional plan, such as work to prepare the Akademi had been continuing regardless.
 - The transitional plan was presented at the 2015 MAGA conference.

ACTION: There was a proposal that Cornwall Council will publish strategy documents, annual plans within a month of future forum meetings for consideration.

MT

Proposed: N Meek, Seconded: J Ansell
Majority of attendees voted in favour.

3 **Derivas Kemmyn ha Keskows** ***General report and discussion***

a) Funding for the Cornish language programme

- The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) asked Cornwall Council to submit a 5-year bid; this bid was based on the language strategy proposed by Iaith.
 - After appraisal by the Treasury in January it was passed on to ministers in February. On 20/04/2016, John Pollard (Leader of Cornwall Council) received a letter from DCLG. Although the bid followed all of the channels necessary, the letter does not refer to the bid. It explains that language funding was a part of the devolution deal, and for the unitary authority to determine the funding level.
 - Cllr Julian German had spoken to the media in light of the news.
 - Cornwall Council would be providing an official response

- back to the government and local MPs outlining the problems in the letter received.
 - Of the local MPs, only George Eustace and Sarah Newton, had been supportive of the language bid. Bishop Tim Thornton had met with Greg Clark MP to lobby for the bid.
 - Cllr Julian German had been refused several meetings at Westminster during funding rounds for the language.
 - The forum was reminded that a Committee of Experts report from the Council of Europe stated that strategic responsibility lies with the government; it cannot be devolved to Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council would be going back to government to make a further case.
- A question was posed whether the community should continue to fight for this particular bid.
 - A line would need to be drawn under the announcement to continue the overall work, but the community's disapproval needed to be clearly expressed so that people are well aware of the issue.
 - The perception from MPs regarding the language was that it is not a doorstep issue. If there is no vocal support within communities, they will not pay attention to it.
 - Interest in the Cornish language can be seen both inside and out of Cornwall. The language charter is not just for Cornwall, it is for all speakers, for all people in the British Isles and further.
 - George Eustace MP has asked if the treasury could fund the language and was eager to devolve funding around heritage. Concerns were raised that this may not help to make the language appear progressive.
 - A petition was opened in Brittany; people outside of the UK were welcomed to write to their local British embassy regarding the Cornish language.

ACTION: A bullet point list was requested explaining the key funding points for people to write their own letters of support. This would be shared on Monday or Tuesday of the week starting 25/04/2016. The bid to DCLG would also be made public.

MT

- There was a suggestion that Cornwall Council could start contributing more to the Cornish language.
 - In regards to future plans, Cornwall Council was determined to carry out agreements around the education and social use grant funds.
 - John Pollard would be convening a meeting shortly; this would examine how to create a sustainable funding package for the language. Interested businesses will be sought out for input on the plans, such as Visit Cornwall

which has been speaking out about the announcement.

ACTION: A work programme for 2016/17 would be released after the leader's meeting in early May.

MT

- The possibility for alternative external funding was discussed.
 - The Arts Council have discussed with Golden Tree their willingness to support the language.
 - There were concerns that although specific project funding may be received, it would not be enough to support the day-to-day running of the language.
 - The vast majority of work completed is due to a large voluntary effort. Although a project is funded, it also needs to have the community behind it. If Cornwall Council were to bid for a pot, the voluntary sector may not receive bids from the same pot.
 - Converse arguments were made that project and core funding were two different things. Arts funding would increase popularity and awareness, whereas core funding was required for the work programme.

b) Cornish Language Lead report

- The delivery structure for 2015-25 was outlined, most of which was already in place. The council's language plan was adopted in November 2015, it contains council-wide actions from 2016-18.
 - In addition to document forewords, future plans were to translate chapter headings, which could be used by officers for supporting documents.
 - Public areas in Pydar House will include Cornish language signage as part of the new build currently in progress.
 - The Cornwall Council language plan is planned for release alongside the good practice guide which explains how best to use the language in a development workflow.
 - There was emphasis that if people want to correspond with the council in Cornish, there is a function available for this.
 - The MAGA website was currently undergoing a redesign to feature on the main council website; with the IT team working on making this part of the Council website work bilingually.
 - Most of the current new-build developments are coming too late for proper naming suggestions to be practical.
- How can the community help develop the overall strategy?
 - Further consideration was required examining how to engage with the wider community and make sure everyone is on board.

- In the design guide, there was a request that the Cornish language should appear on the left of a page where appropriate. Limitations on this were recognised, and the guide is intended to assist designers in using Cornish more often and more consistently.
- Would it be good to review the suggested strategy to determine a better plan with no funding available?
 - Cllr German reemphasised that the council was not intending to lose all of the funding entirely.
 - The Iaith report included three funding levels including one scenario with just the £30k from Cornwall Council.
 - Core council funding for the language had been raised from £30k to £50k; this funding includes staff time.
- Where would the Akademi funding be coming from?
 - The previous forum minutes confirmed that there would be two years of funding.
- Will the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid Dasserghi Kernow be going ahead as planned?
 - The council plans to go ahead with the project.

4 Akademi Kernewek

- The Akademi would need to relook at the funding received, including how it is supported in the future. After receiving guarantees from Cornwall Council, the Akademi was hopeful about starting their work programme.
 - Since the last forum meeting, there have been five meetings, once per six weeks.
 - Work on the website is almost complete and will include membership lists and work plans for each of the four panels.
 - The website address will be www.akademikernewek.org.uk.
 - Simon Margetts was announced as the Akademi's accountant.
 - Garry Tregidga had also agreed to become a member of the Akademi; he was expecting to attend the May meeting.
 - An agreement was in place with the language office to provide any necessary documents for the work of Akademi Kernewek.
- The panel groups and respective chairs were announced:
 - Place names and street signage, chaired by Nev Meek.
 - Research, chaired by Ken George. This panel would be collating a bibliography of the language corpus.

- Dictionary, chaired by Tim Saunders. This panel would be responsible for updating the online and pdf dictionaries, this would include corrections on the existing database on which future dictionaries will be based.
- Cornwall Council has agreed to update the Standard Written Form (SWF) spec and dictionary before being handed to the Akademi.
- Terminology, chaired by Pol Hodge. A policy is already in place for this panel, which will be responsible for developing new words.
- A priority is to secure long-term funding for Akademi Kernewek.
- In regards to the legal status of the Akademi, will they be paying for an academic secretary?
 - The Akademi is considering a proposal from Exeter University to provide someone for the admin services. With the funding situation, there may need to be further consideration to a lower cost solution but this was also intended to develop closer links with the university.
 - Lots of people could help the Akademi and avoid paying for work from the university.
- Apart from the signage panel, which has already been running for several years, the other panels are getting ready to go. There was also a drive to get sub-groups in place to support specific bodies of work.
- The key request from both teachers and learners was a comprehensive, up-to-date dictionary.
- TschwaneLex dictionary software for minority languages is being acquired to provide and develop the SWF dictionary and this will assist Akademi Kernewek in its work.
 - There is a term dictionary function, separate from the main dictionary. It will allow for a review period of new words before they are adopted into the main dictionary.
 - The database program was bought several years ago and used by Albert Bock to create the current SWF dictionary.
- Translation memory software is also being looked at to enable Gonis Treylya to streamline their existing workflows.

5 **Ragdresow Projects**

a) Learning and Communication

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- Will Coleman presented current projects that Golden Tree is working on and future projects that include an element of Cornish, including The Man Engine and plans for a performance of Bewnans Ke.
- Golden Tree had been successful in bidding for the learning and communication fund.
- What would be happening in the interim and future about Say Something in Cornish (SSiC) and the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) examinations? What about schools delivery?
 - The WJEC exam board has been contacted, this will be carried forward; to provide entry level exam and emphasis on spoken Cornish. The Association of Cornish Language Teachers (ACLT) will be contacted to prepare for the modules in the next academic year.
 - If teachers are to use the WJEC assessments, there needs to be assurances that it is going ahead.
 - Current capacity does not allow for school-based sessions, but will be developed through the learning fund once the funding level can be confirmed.
 - The total cost for SSiC was £2k. The last ten sessions have not been produced due to changes at the Welsh parent company.
- Funding for adult classes would be moving to the ACLT, this is an SLA for the current year.
- Pre-schools funding had not been looked at specifically, but there is a pre-school element in the learning bid.

ALL/MT

ACTION: Some of the targets having being outlined in the transitional plan were identified as not yet having being completed. People with specific concerns were invited to submit them to the council.

- Why was the wording changed from immersion to bilingual in the education bid wording?
 - A decision was taken in consultation with the Cornish language development manager and the MAGA education team to make this amendment.
 - Whilst immersion is desirable in the medium to longer term, staff felt there was no capacity to achieve this in the short-term.
- Who decided on the bid specification and who decided on the bids against the specification?
 - The board contained Glenn Caplin, Mark Trevethan, a procurement officer within Economic Development &

Culture (ED&C) and consulted with Iaith.

b) social innovation

- The successful social innovation fund applications are Lowender Peran and Porkellis.
 - Funding had already been released for the Porkellis project. This is part of the 'geographic hubs' suggested in the Iaith report. It will work in all aspects of the community, including the pub, library, schools, village halls and parish council.

5 Kuntellesow a dheu Future meetings

- The next language forum meeting was agreed for Saturday 15 October 2016. Reports would be distributed on Thursday 15 September 2016.

6 Negys aral AOB