



Kovnotyansow / Minutes

Meeting Title: Dalva an Yeth Kernewek / Cornish Language Forum
Date: 11 mis Du 2017 / 11 November 2017
Time: 10.30–13.00
Location: Trelawny, Lys Kernow, Truru / Trelawny, County Hall, Truro
Chaired by: Merv Davey (Bardh Meur / Grand Bard)

Kovnotyansow / Minutes

**Gwrians
/Action**

1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks

The Grand Bard, Merv Davey (MD) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the necessity to keep up the pressure on the Central Government for funding the Cornish language, but also to continue with the work at hand.

A two minute silence would be held at 11am.

2 Minutes of last meeting

- Item 7 — Cornish Culture at Royal Cornwall Show 2018
 - Gorsedh Kernow announced they have stopped planning the Cultural Hub due to a lack of financial support.

3 Cornish language programme 2017/18 — mid-year reports

a. Cornish Language Lead — Cornish Language Programme overview and status

- Cornish Language Lead, Mark Trevethan (MT) started with an update of within Cornwall Council (CC) since the last meeting.
 - Cllr Bob Egerton, cabinet member for Planning and Economy, is responsible for Cornish language.
 - Cllr German is now Deputy Leader and equalities, including national minority status for the Cornish, is part of his brief so he retains an interest in the language work.

- The Culture Manager, Julie Seyler, has left CC with the role covered in the interim by Tamsin Daniel.
- An updated delivery structure was presented to the forum; this will be uploaded to the website after the meeting and included in subsequent operational plans.
- The mid-year Operational Plan 2017–18 report is available to download on the Cornish language Office website.

- Samantha Rayne, Project Officer for Dasserghi Kernewek, finished her contract in July. Her work included archiving the Henry Jenner collection at the Cornwall Record Office and collating content for the project website.
 - There is currently a film in production due for completion at the end of 2017.
 - PhD student Ben Gilby has just started at the Institute of Cornish Studies (ICS), he will be able to continue the project's research into the language revival in the 19th century.

- MT met with An Rosweyth to talk through the programme in more detail; these talks will now be regular throughout the work programme.

- **Question:** What has happened with the Language Planning and Policy (LPP) panel meetings?
 - A Welsh contingent was due on Friday 3 November but they cancelled this meeting. MT explained plans to rework this panel, instead allowing themed community events, as well as bringing in language planning experts from other regions to advise the cabinet member to discuss language issues.

- **Question:** Who is responsible for wider promotion of the Cornish language; is it the language office?
 - The language office will do some promotional work including pocket guides, promoting use by partners, social media, but there is not sufficient funding for a promotions officer. We will all need to play a part e.g. the community leading on Speak Cornish Week in 2017. Golden Tree is planning an online learning portal, which could provide language groups with a platform to contribute content and produce high-quality content.

b. Corpus

Akademi Kernewek

- After problems in registering Akademi Kernewek as a charitable body, a consultant is being commissioned to help with the

process.

Gerlyver

- A new partnership with Bangor University will provide an online dictionary database and website for the Akademi to develop.

Signage

- Nev Meek has stepped down as Chair of the Signage panel; this has been taken on by Jan Edmondson.
- Current projects include naming the new West Langarth developments in Truro and research for the 2018 Newquay Gorsedh booklet.

Terminology

- The panel is currently developing a list of plant names. Two completed terminology lists — insects and mining — are available to view on the AK website.
 - The word lists discussed at Terminology are based on client requests to the Translation Service and several thousand words have been agreed.
 - Completed terms will be reviewed through the Akademi and consultation for eventual adding to the dictionary.

Research

- AK is starting to work more closely with the ICS and University of Exeter.
- The next Skians conference was announced for the 16–17 March 2018.

Gonis Treylya

- There was a noticeable drop in translation requests at the start of the year; this was due to the language office website transition in January 2017. It is now receiving around 50 requests per month. The office has also introduced translation memory software, allowing for future integration with online dictionaries.
- **Comment:** In regards to the new translation software, there is quite a lot not known about its functions. For example it would be useful to see the complete text, instead of segmented sentences.
 - The office will set some training up to get the best out of the software in the next couple of months; hopefully this will demonstrate the benefits of translation software.

- **Comment:** If there is going to be training, it might be useful for the panels to be included to see how it will be integrated.
 - Once the contract with Bangor University is in place, there will be a workshop to learn how to use the dictionary and translation software and ensure they serve the language community.

c. Project updates

Looe Music Festival

- This project aimed to get the mass media involved with Cornish, culminating in the Big Cornish Sing.
 - A training video was produced with many well-known faces; including local Spotlight news presenters.
 - The Big Cornish sing had over 1,700 listeners online and approximately 1,000 present on the day.
 - Falmouth University film students have produced a 10-minute film documenting the event and the public's attitudes to Cornish.
- **Comment:** It was expensive for local performers to get in on the day.
 - The performers should not have been charged; this will be discussed with the organisers.
- **Question:** Did the Big Cornish Sing reach a younger demographic compared to other projects?
 - The analytics have not been examined in detail yet, the approach was geared to younger people, especially the film student project.

Lowender Peran

- It was the first year for Lowender Peran at the Hotel Bristol in Newquay.
 - Keskan Lowender – filled to capacity with around 150–200 people in the audience and 100 performers.
 - Videos of both choirs singing in Cornish were videoed in advance of the festival with “bouncy ball” lyrics and used to promote both the festival and Cornish language in social media typically reaching 5000–6000 people with 1000 views.
 - Both Choirs use the Cornish language songs they learned in their normal repertoire.
 - The whisky tasting session was attended by 35–40 and worked very well in getting people to do an activity in

- Cornish. A gin tasting was suggested for 2018.
- Kesareth Ilow Kernow / Cornish Music Symposium explored the catalogue of Brenda Wootton's Songs in Cornish.
- Newquay Rowing Club held a successful singing session in Cornish and has been invited to Wales on the back of this.
- 15–20 people attended the Feast's festivals network which aimed to share good practice between festivals.
- Newquay Rowing Club held a successful singing session in Cornish and have been invited to Wales on the back of this.
- **Question:** Would it be possible to capture participant details for each of the events? This would allow people to send out information after the event.

Radyo an Gernewegva

- Matthew Clarke (MC) provided an update on his work with both radio and video.
 - MC is still looking for more people to record interviews.
 - Jerry Jefferies has stepped down as an interviewer in North Cornwall, so there is a recording device available for that area.
 - There are now six programmes online with Pellwolok an Gernewegva, with a new monthly programme, An Mis, being published online.
 - Speakers were asked to consider recording introductions for their events; even short 30 second recordings would be useful.

Social Activity Project

- Brian Rogers (BR) provided an update report ahead of the meeting, noting a key issue with people not joining in and linking it with a wider issue with other voluntary commitments.
 - Promotional goods have been produced with the 'Prag Na?' brand; these are available for sale e.g. T-shirts.
 - Families have been invited to start learning Cornish in a supportive environment at regular sessions for children at the Kowsva.
 - Prag Na had attended the Truro Food Festival to get the public using the language informally.
 - Jan Lobb reported on a partially successful event to make Cornish Christmas cards. Although no speakers attended the event, it was useful for the artists present to find out how they could use Cornish in their work.

d. Acquisition

Learning and Communication — Golden Tree

Schools

- Slides from the presentation have been published on the Cornish Language Office website. Joe Lewis set out how Golden Tree are working on two clusters at Penzance and Liskeard, and aim to deliver Cornish language teaching to 15 schools.
- The schools delivery programme runs weekly training courses at all participating schools, providing Cornish language teacher training to create a legacy after the end of the programme.
 - Art workshops are planned as part of the Liskeard cluster, with the pieces produced to be included around a town trail. Six schools are currently enrolled in Liskeard.

Clusters

- Bid submissions were received from 16 towns around Cornwall to become the second school cluster, with Liskeard having been selected due to the range of organisations included in the bid and the depth of preparation.
- 109 registered users on the Golden Tree Memrise course titled "Learn Cornish 1" by GTPol.
- Golden Tree has created a second Twitter account with the username @GwedhenOwr just for Cornish language communications. These will still be shared to the main Golden Tree Twitter account, but it will be easier for speakers to use.

Portal

- A project timeline for the Language Portal was shown at the Forum, with a launch planned March/April 2018.
 - If there is content that you would like to include, Golden Tree can use it to produce a high-quality document on the website.
 - Golden Tree is in early discussions to have Magi Ann produced in Cornish, a Welsh resource for pre-school children.
 - Speakers are invited to suggest what they would like to see on the website that is not already listed.

- **Question:** Will Golden Tree be using existing resources?
 - Where possible the intention is to provide links to other sources, but some documents may be reworked into the agreed theme, and new resources commissioned where there are gaps.
- **Question:** How was the second cluster selected, and would number of speakers in the area have been a factor?
 - The main criterion for the clusters is to achieve a geographical spread, so the preference was somewhere in east Cornwall. However it was important to find a town committed to the project. Liskeard has really taken the project on board, with collective support from Liskeard Town Council, Liskeard in Bloom and local artists and performers all in support of the project.
- **Question:** There is a concern we already have a proliferation of websites; what will the legacy of the website portal if the contract ends?
 - The portal is being designed to be user-led, so it will be easier to point beginners, teachers, students etc. to resources that meet their needs.
 - If the contract ends, measures will be put in place to get the website transferred.
- **Question:** Will this be kept as a free service if the contract ends?
 - There are no plans to restrict access to this website.

WJEC

- As a stipulation for providing Cornish language assessments, the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) required a minimum of 10 entrants. There were actually 30 entrants in the first year with everyone achieving a pass.
 - Exam centre feedback from WJEC was positive, which showed the Language Office's processes were correct, the tasks are appropriate and the teachers carried out the assessments to the required standard.
 - A second WJEC training session will be in place by January 2018.
 - There is a further commitment with WJEC to develop the next two examination levels in 2018/19.

Ros Dyski

- There are still geographical gaps of teaching provision, most notably in North Cornwall.

- Teachers listed on the Ros Dyski website are asked to write a few lines about their class, along with confirming their listed details are correct.

4 2018/19 budget and emerging projects

- CC language funding is expected to continue in the 2018/19 financial year. It will be discussed at a Cabinet meeting in November, but the final amount will not be formally approved by full council until February 2018.
- The end date for the existing Cornish Language Learning and Communications contract will be rolled forward to March 2019.
- Calls for media and social innovation grants will be made at the end of November with a deadline for submission at the end of January. 3 awards will be made rather than 4, with the 4th grant being allocated to a film competition as this has been a gap in the language programme.
- The Cornish Culture Fund has been awarded to Golden Tree for status raising awareness of Cornish national minority and to Azook for addressing barriers to Cornish content in school curricula.
- **Comment:** The government's decision to renege on its financial support was discussed at a Gorsedh Council meeting. The Gorsedh Council agreed that a representative should meet with CC to discuss submitting another funding bid.
 - Cllr German has agreed to submit a letter to Central Government in the New Year.
- **Question:** How can we ensure CC departments such as education adopt findings from the Cornish minority research?
 - The aim of the Azook work is to make it easier for interested schools to include Cornish matters in the curriculum.
- **Question:** Would it be possible for CC to explore what a bilingual Cornwall could look like in 50 years' time?
 - There is already a 10-year strategy in place, but it would certainly be useful to look forwards as a community.
- **Question:** How far are we towards doubling the number of speakers?
 - There will need to be a survey to assess this; there have already been official discussions for Cornish to be included in the official census. Otherwise an independent survey will need to be arranged.

5 Rosweyth — the Cornish language voluntary groups

Feedback on the Cornish language programme

- Following from discussions at the previous Forum, An Rosweyth has taken on the scrutiny role of details of the programme and will report to each Forum. This ensures that concerns are raised at subsequent Forum meetings. The expectation is that future Forum meetings will accommodate these discussions more easily.
- **Comment:** The language community needs to start capturing stats more accurately.
 - Kresen Kernow as a very detailed system for tracking volunteer hours, but noted that volunteers are not always willing to spend further time recording their volunteering activities after an event.
- **Comment:** One of the outcomes from the Agan Lev report was to recognise how volunteers are working and how they are supported.

Agan Lev — findings from community conference and next steps

- An Rosweyth met for the first 'Agan Lev' conference on Sunday 26 February to look at ways of working together. Another meeting took place in September 2017 to discuss findings from the 'Agan Lev' conference, along with discussing priorities up to 2025.
 - A finalised list of recommendations is still in progress. Speak Cornish Week 2018 will take place from Saturday 23 June to Sunday 1 July 2018; everyone was asked to start thinking about their involvement.
 - Rosweyth representatives in each language group is as follows:
 - Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek: Loveday Jenkin
 - Kesva an Taves Kernewek: Maureen Pierce
 - Agan Tavas: Ray Chubb
 - Cussel an Tavas Kernôwek: Jan Lobb
 - An Kylgh Kernewek: Peter Harvey
 - An Rosweyth: Jenefer Lowe

6 Future fora

- a. **Discussion on making the Forum work for the wider community e.g. future themes, potential target**

groups, guest speakers

- If anyone has any questions or ideas on how to further develop the forum, please present them to the Cornish Language Office, or to one of the named representatives for An Rosweyth.
 - Ideas to consider include themed meetings, invited speakers or if the current format is suitable.
- **Comment:** The Forum is meant to hold CC to account and it is disappointing that Cllr Egerton did not attend the meeting.
- **Comment:** It would be worth inviting the CC scrutiny committee and officers to attend a Forum meeting; perhaps splitting into smaller working groups to discuss ideas.
- **Comment:** Cornwall365 have been invited to attend an event as 'cultural ambassadors' to represent the Cornish language.

7 Closing remarks

- Attendees were in favour of moving the Forum's venue around to tie-in with other projects; therefore the next meeting will be held in Penzance and Liskeard after that.

Next Forum meeting date:

Saturday 12 May 2018, Penzance