

Cornish Language Partnership Open Forum

Notes from the Forum held 31st July 2007 at Camborne Community Centre, 7pm – 8.30pm

1. Introduction

Jenefer Lowe welcomed those present and outlined why the Partnership decided to hold Forum meetings.

2. Presentation

Jenefer Lowe gave a presentation introducing the Cornish Language Partnership and its programme of work. The presentation gave an overview of areas of development such as education, project development, the Single Form process, research and marketing, including the new MAGA website which would be going live the following morning.

3. Discussion

A discussion followed, the key points of which were:

- **Promotional materials**

Suggestions were made for bookmarks to give away at libraries and beer mats for festivals such as Lowender Peran. Posters for classes were also discussed, and they will be distributed by the Partnership to assist advertising Cornish classes across all forms. Tesco “Bags for Life” were also mentioned, as they are available in Welsh, and it was agreed that the bigger businesses such as Tesco do need to be targeted in marketing campaigns.

- **Isles of Scilly**

A query was made about the Isles of Scilly and how they have reacted to the work of the Cornish Language Partnership. Jenefer Lowe commented that some work on place names in the Isles of Scilly has been carried out recently by the Historic Environment department of the Council, which could be used as an entry to working more with the Scillies, but so far there has been little interest shown.

- **Communal reprographic facilities**

A question was asked about what communal facilities there were available from the Partnership, which could be used by all of the language groups. The available equipment now includes: projector, laptop, A4 colour laser printer and scanner. People who would like to make use of any of this equipment are asked to phone the office before coming in to use the equipment they require. There is also a generic stand alone banner which can be borrowed for shows and events.

The possibility of purchasing some mobile translation equipment is also being researched at the moment.

- **Funding for classes**

The Partnership has agreed to fund the cost of public liability insurance and premise hire for classes held in public premises. The aim is to get classes

out of private home environments and into public places so that they have a greater perceived value. The funding will be available this year but there are no guarantees for after that. A letter will be going out about this shortly.

- **Family learning and role models**

Jenefer Lowe said that the Partnership is working with Bookstart in thinking about providing bilingual books to help adults learn Cornish at the same time as teaching their children. The need for positive and high profile role models was discussed. There is already an idea to get some high profile people in Cornwall to learn Cornish, and give regular updates on their progress in the press, and suggestions for people included rugby players, television presenters etc.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.