

Cornish Language Partnership

Open Forum

Notes from the Cornish Language Forum held on 22nd January 2008 at the Andrew Hall, Helston from 7pm – 9pm

1. Introduction

The Development Manager welcomed those present and apologised for the delay to the start of the meeting, which had been caused by keys to venue not working.

2. Presentation

The Development Manager then gave a presentation outlining the work of the Partnership, and giving an update on the progress of several current initiatives.

3. Discussion

A discussion followed, the key points of which were as follows:

- **Education**

A discussion took place around teaching Cornish in schools, including the various possible approaches of either teaching it as a modern foreign language or coming at it from a more cultural perspective. The Development Manager also commented that she had recently attended a conference of secondary heads of languages, at which a teacher from one of the secondary schools which is currently teaching Cornish said that teaching Cornish had had a positive impact on language learning in general at that school.

- **Early Years**

A query was raised about whether there would be funding to work with younger children and the response was that the Partnership is aware of the need to work with young children and families and that it needed to be a priority.

- **Radio**

There was a discussion around the use of Cornish on the radio, and it was reported that there were some moves to set up community radio stations and plans for a community digital TV station which might be helpful. A comment was also made that Breton radio stations have expressed an interest in working with Cornish ones.

- **Signage**

Signage in Kerrier was discussed and a query raised about the spelling of some of the signs which have gone up in Helston. Kerrier Portfolio Holder, Loveday Jenkin, explained that all forms are considered by the Kerrier Language Panel and in cases where there was a variation in spelling between the forms, the different options are offered to the local town or parish council to decide.

- **Books**

It was felt that there is a need for more books to be available in Cornish, both original ones and translations of high profile books or classics.

A suggestion for a simple fun cartoon book was also made.

- **Promotion**

The Partnership's work with the Cornish Pirates rugby team was discussed and Ray Clemens added that he had been in touch with Redruth to ask if they would like to follow the Pirates' example. The idea was approved by the committee but they are waiting for the SWF before they do anything.

A suggestion was made for the Kerrier trailer to be used as a Cornish language stand at events such as Furry Day and Trevithick Day.

- **SWF**

A discussion around the SWF included a query about the standing of the document detailing the agreement made by the Ad-hoc group. It was confirmed that the agreement that has come out of the Ad-Hoc Group meetings will not be open to further consultation and changes. Those details that were still open, would be decided by the Arbiter after advice from the advisors.

It was felt that a lot of work has to be done around the perception of Cornish, as until now it has been seen as fragmented.

- **IT**

A suggestion was made to get the Google homepage translated into Cornish.

- **Activities**

A suggestion was made for a social group in the west of Cornwall to be set up, as has been done in East Cornwall, where people can get together for walks and social events in Cornish. It was commented that there had been a successful get-together before Christmas involving the Helston Cornish class and the Mullion class and more events of this kind would be welcomed.