

# Cornish Language Partnership Open Forum

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Notes from the Forum held 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at the Lecture Hall, St John's Hall, Penzance, 7pm – 9pm.

## 1. Introduction

Jori Ansell welcomed all there and introduced the business of the meeting bilingually in Cornish and English. He encouraged anyone who wished to contribute to the meeting in Cornish to do so.

## 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 and research, as well as giving a background to the Commission who are tasked with recommending a single written form of Cornish, and the Linguistic Working Group who will be assisting them. She also drew people's attention to the template for submissions to the Commission, which had been suggested at the previous forum in Liskeard. Copies of the template were made available at the forum.

## 3. Discussion

A discussion followed, chaired by Jori Ansell, and the key points of discussion were:

- **The method of research being carried out to determine the baseline statistics for the actual number of Cornish speakers.**  
Preparations for a snowball survey are taking place at the moment, which will be sent out initially to the distribution lists of each of the language groups, asking people to recommend other Cornish speakers to whom it can also be forwarded in an attempt to capture Cornish speakers everywhere, not just in Cornwall.
- **The type of information needed by the Commission to help them with their work on establishing a single written form.**  
It was clarified that the Commission will be given a range of background information on Cornish and the history of the revival, and therefore what they would be looking for in the submissions from individuals would be personal testimonies of people's experiences with Cornish.
- **The work of the Education Working Group.**  
This group, which is in the process of being formed, will be tasked with looking at how best to teach Cornish in schools (be it by teaching Cornish to modern language teachers; training Cornish speakers as qualified teachers; using Cornish speakers as ancillaries; or using a small number of qualified Cornish speaking teachers as peripatetic teachers) amongst other tasks.
- **How people will be informed about the decision of the Commission**  
The Commission's decision on a single written form of Cornish will be published publicly, but it was reiterated that whichever form is chosen people will still be entitled to continue using whichever form they choose.

The meeting closed at 9pm and Rod Lyon made a closing remark that even once the language has been standardised, the moment it is given to children to learn they will start coming up with new words and ways of using it, which will be a sign that the language is fully alive again.