

# Cornish Language Partnership Open Forum

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## Notes from the Cornish Language Forum held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at Wadebridge Town Hall from 7pm – 9pm

### 1. Introduction

Jenefer Lowe welcomed those present and introduced the business of the meeting.

### 2. Presentation

A presentation was given outlining the purpose and structure of the forums, and giving an update on the progress on the Cornish Language Partnership's current initiatives, including research initiatives, education and the Single Written Form.

### 3. Discussion

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

- **Sound Archive**

A discussion took place around how the gathering and collation of the sound archive will work and some of the items which could be included.

- **Education**

A query was raised about how the LEA is responding to Cornish. The response was that there have been no problems so far as projects such as Sense of Place have helped to pave the way.

It was felt that the way forward was to work directly with schools, to encourage a groundswell in interest, rather than forcing a directive on them from above.

Two approaches for teaching Cornish were discussed: either teaching it as a modern foreign language or from a more cultural perspective as an indigenous language.

A suggestion was made to prepare a Christmas Carol pack in Cornish for schools next year, as it would be an effective way of introducing a large number of children to some Cornish.

Language Ladder breakthrough packs will be ready by September 2008.

- **Signage**

A query was raised about whether there is any legislative power to stop developers and individuals from anglicising traditional Cornish property and place names. It was noted that there is no legislation to prevent this, but that making information readily available about how to use or keep Cornish names could help to prevent it.

It was suggested that a mail shot could be sent out to developers with this information, also informing them about the Partnership's translation service.

- **Image**

A discussion took place around how the surfing world has adopted Cornish, though clothing companies such as Hager Vor, and it was felt that this would be a good lead to follow in terms of promoting Cornish to a younger generation.