

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Lampeter Town Council adopted a Welsh Language Policy under the Welsh Language Act 1993 on August 30th 2007. Point 6.4 of the policy requires that the council receive an annual report, that the public are able to comment on the report and that it is submitted to the Welsh Language Board.

Cllrs. Rob Phillips, Dorothy Williams, Chris Thomas, Selwyn Walters and the Town Clerk were appointed to the council's Welsh Language Committee to prepare the annual report. This report does not consider every point in the policy but notes individual successes and recommends changes in practice where this is required.

3 PLANNING AND DELIVERING SERVICES

The town council took a lease on Maesyderi Field during the year, with a view to providing facilities for younger people. All new signs are fully bilingual. Bilingual signs were also purchased for Parc-yr-Orsedd.

4 DEALING WITH WELSH SPEAKING PUBLIC

The council has received a number of letter and e-mails in Welsh during the past year and they have all been answered in Welsh. The fact that the council welcomes correspondence in English or Welsh is made clear on each letter sent.

A public meeting was held to discuss the Maesyderi Field on March 19th 2009. The meeting was advertised in accordance with the Welsh Language Scheme but no requests for translation equipment were received.

During the year, the council commissioned a new website. The new website is bi-lingual and all minutes and documents. All new publications included in the Welsh Language Scheme are available in English and Welsh. The clerk has expressed concern that there is not enough time in the hours allocated for translation, to ensure that all council documents are translated. Even though not all internal council documents need to be bi-lingual under the Welsh Language Scheme, English and Welsh copies should be provided where possible.

5. THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FACE

Headed paper, the website and council e-mails are all bi-lingual. A message on council headed paper and e-mails states that correspondence is welcomed in English or Welsh.

During the year, Western Mail & Echo Ltd. produced a guide book to the town. The Council has no editorial influence on this publication but the Mayor's welcome was provided to the publisher in both English and Welsh and published in both languages.

The Council published a bi-lingual programme for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony.

The council considers the Welsh language when awarding grants. A new form, to be completed by those applying for funding asked how they will reflect the linguistic character of the area. This is a change instigated following last year's report of the Welsh Language Sub Committee, but use of the form has so far been low.

Significant grants were awarded to Eisteddfod Rhys Thomas James Pantyfedwen, Urdd Gobaith Cymru (both locally and nationally) and the National Eisteddfod.

An area of land, formerly known as King George V Gardens was re-named Parc Sant Germain-Suir-Moine in recognition of Lampeter's twin town. The name is in keeping with the Welsh Language Scheme.

6. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SCHEME

It is recommended that a press release is supplied to the *Cambrian News* and *Carmarthen Journal* and an advert is placed in *Clonc* drawing attention to the annual review of the Welsh Language Scheme. It is further recommended that copies are placed in the town library and on the website. Copies should also be available from the Town Clerk.

**Welsh Language Sub Committee
14 February 2010**