

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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.

PLANNING AND DELIVERING SERVICES

The town council has continued to display bilingual signs when new signs are ordered, excepting the cases on Parc Sant Germain Sur Moine and Clos Glyndwr when only the Welsh names were used. Bilingual signs were erected as part of the Alcohol Exclusion Zone.

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.

Letters, posters and other correspondence circulated to residents regarding the development of Maesyderi Field have been bilingual.

The council has continued to operate a bilingual website, with all council minutes and static content available in both English and Welsh. As a result of comments from the Welsh Language Board, the council considered purchasing a Welsh language URL www.ct-llambed.gov.uk but the cost of registering the URL was considered too high. The decision will be reconsidered in 2 years time.

The clerk has expressed concern that in view of the additional work in administering the Maesyderi Sub Committee 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 bilingual under the Welsh Language Scheme, English and Welsh copies should be provided where possible.

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.

The Council are producing a new town guide, which will be bilingual

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.

Significant grants were awarded to Eisteddfod Rhys Thomas James Pantyfedwen, Urdd Gobaith Cymru (both locally and nationally) and the National Eisteddfod. The holding of Eisteddfod yr Urdd at Llannerchaeron was a boost to the Welsh language locally and supported both financially and practically by the Town Council. The town was decorated with Urdd bunting and the Mayor attended the Eisteddfod as a guest.

In order to allow the Council's Annual General Meeting to be held through the medium of Welsh, a translator was employed. This is the first time that translation facilities have been made available at the Council's AGM.

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.

The hours allocated to the Town Clerk for translation work should be increased by 2 hours per month.

Welsh Language Sub Committee
24th January 2011