

KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL'S WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME

Welsh Language Scheme prepared under the Welsh Language Act 1993

This Scheme received the approval of the Board under section 14 (1) of the Act on 24th March 2004.

1. OPENING STATEMENT

“Kidwelly Town Council has adopted the principle that in the conduct of public business in Wales it will treat Welsh and English on a basis of equality. This scheme sets out how the Council will implement that principle in the provision of services to the public in Kidwelly and Mynyddygarreg.”

The Council recognises that members of the public can express their views and needs better in their preferred language, that enabling them to use their preferred language is a matter of good practice rather than a concession and that the denial of that right could place members of the public at a real disadvantage. The Council will therefore offer the public the right to choose which language to use in dealings with the Council.

The Council aims:

- to enable everyone who receives or uses the Council's services or contributes to the democratic process to do so through the medium of Welsh or English, according to personal choice.
- to encourage the use of the Welsh language in the community
- to encourage others to use the Welsh language in the community.

2. INTRODUCTION TO KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL

Amongst the Council's main duties are:

- to effectively manage Council's estate
- maintain public cemetery;
- maintain designated public footpaths;
- consider planning matters;
- suggest improvements regarding highways;
- work with the police to safeguard the community;
- responsibility for some footway lighting;
- provide Christmas lights annually;
- provide financial assistance for various voluntary organisations and charities;
- look after designated public seating;
- appoint representatives to numerous local and outside bodies.

There are a number of social, cultural and community groups that play a prominent part in the life of the community. The Council is working to promote community development and social activities and respond to local needs to improve the standard of life in the area.

The Council has 13 elected members, and the Clerk works part time from the office. The Clerk is not bi-lingual but some of the members are bi-lingual and can respond to the public in Welsh both orally and in written form.

Linguistic Profile of the Area

(a) 2001 Census figure for Carmarthenshire:

Population over the age of 3 in Carmarthenshire	167,373
Percentage of people understanding spoken Welsh only	10.45%
Percentage of people speaks but does not read or write Welsh	7.22%
Percentage of people speaks and reads but does not write Welsh	3.89%
Percentage of people speaks reads and writes Welsh	38.96%
Percentage of people – other combination skills	3.07%
Percentage of people – no knowledge of Welsh	34.41%

(b) Schools

Welsh Junior Schools

Ysgol Gwennlian (designated Welsh School)	Governing Body meetings conducted through medium of Welsh
Ysgol Mynyddygarreg (Category A School)	
Ysgol Y Castell (Category B School)	

Local Welsh Secondary Schools

Ysgol Y Strade (Llanelli)
Ysgol Bro Myrddin (Carmarthen)

(c) Chapels & Churches

Chapels

Morfa (Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel)
Capel Sul (Welsh Congregational Chapel)
Siloam (Welsh Baptist Chapel)
Horeb, Mynyddygarreg (Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel)

Churches

St. Teilo's Anglican (Welsh Service)

The above Chapels and Churchs conduct services wholly through the medium of Welsh

St. Mary's (One service a month – Holy Eucharist is conducted through medium of Welsh)

(d) Community Group

Côr Gwyl Cydweli/Kidwelly Festival Choir (Bi-lingual Concerts)
Menter Y Mynydd (Mynyddygarreg) – a branch of Menter Cwm Gwendraeth which organises Welsh cultural events including annual Eisteddfodau

- (e) CADW – Linguistic tapes including the Welsh language are available for visitors to Castell Cydweli

3. SERVICE PLANNING AND DELIVERY

3.1. New Policies and Initiatives

3.1.1. In devising new policies and initiatives the Council will:

- assess the linguistic effect of any new policies and initiatives and ensure that they are consistent with the Welsh Language Scheme.
- promote and facilitate the use of Welsh wherever possible and will move closer to implementing the principle of equality fully at every opportunity.
- consult with the Welsh Language Board in advance regarding proposals that will affect the scheme, or the scheme of any other public body. The scheme will not be altered without the Board's agreement.
- ensure that those involved in formulating policy will be aware of the Scheme, and of the Council's responsibilities under the Welsh Language Act 1993.
- ensure that the measures contained in the Scheme are applied to new policies and initiatives when they are implemented.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

3.2. Standards of Quality

3.2.1. Services provided in English or Welsh will be of an equally high standard and equally prompt.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

4. DEALING WITH WELSH SPEAKING PUBLIC

4.1. Written Communication

- 4.1.1. The Council will welcome correspondence in either English or Welsh.
- 4.1.2. Correspondence through the medium of Welsh will not in itself lead to any delay
- 4.1.3. Every letter received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh.
- 4.1.4. All correspondence following a telephone or face-to-face conversation in Welsh or a meeting where it was established that Welsh is the preferred language of the person, although the discussion may not have been held through the medium of Welsh, will be in Welsh.

- 4.1.5. All correspondence with a member of the public will be initiated in his/her preferred language if known.
- 4.1.6. All circular or standard letters to the public will be bilingual.
- 4.1.7. The Council will make arrangements to translate correspondence as needed in order to respond to correspondence promptly and in the original language.
- 4.1.8. The Clerk of the Council will be responsible for arranging the translation of correspondence.
- 4.1.9. The Council's official headed paper will include a statement in both languages making it clear that correspondence is welcome in either Welsh or English.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

4.2. Telephone Calls

- 4.2.1. The Clerk will give a bilingual greeting and will welcome telephone calls to the office in Welsh and English.

Timetable: From date of scheme approval

4.3. Public Meetings organised by or on behalf of the Council

- 4.3.1. Contributions are welcomed in either Welsh or English at public meetings held by the Council. This will be stated clearly in the notices that inform or publicise the meeting.
- 4.3.2. All publicity for public meetings will be bilingual, and will invite those attending to notify the Clerk of their language choice at least 14 days in advance so that appropriate translation arrangements can be made for non Welsh-speakers.
- 4.3.3. If it is evident at the beginning of a meeting that all those present speak Welsh, the meeting will be held in Welsh.
- 4.3.4. The Council will provide translation facilities for non Welsh-speakers, according to need, for public meetings arranged by or on behalf of the Council.
- 4.3.5. When the Council is aware that a member of the public wishes to speak Welsh in a public meeting that would otherwise be conducted in English, this should be respected by providing appropriate translation arrangements.
- 4.3.6. At least one staff member and one Elected Member will be present at public meetings to welcome the public and to deal with enquiries, questions or comments in Welsh.
- 4.3.7. Any written materials such as leaflets or acetates that are used in public meetings will be bilingual.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

4.4. Council Meetings

- 4.4.1. The Council's meetings are conducted in English.
- 4.4.2. The notice and agenda for the Council's meetings will be bilingual.
- 4.4.3. The minutes will be in English.
- 4.4.4. The Council will respond to requests for information in relation to the minutes, or sections of the minutes in the preferred language of the individual.

Timetable: From date of scheme approval

4.5. Face-to-Face Meetings with the Public

- 4.5.1. Although the Clerk is not bilingual the Council welcomes meetings with the public in either Welsh or English, and the Clerk will ensure that appropriate arrangements are taken to enable any member of the public who wishes to discuss matters in Welsh to do so with a bilingual Member of the Council.

Timetable: Current practice and continuing

4.6. Other Dealings with the Public

- 4.6.1. The Council contacts the public via modern technology namely computers, website and e-mails and these mediums are available in Welsh and English for the public.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

5. THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC FACE

5.1. Corporate Identity

- 5.1.1. The Council's name is "Cyngor Tref Cydweli/Kidwelly Town Council."
- 5.1.2. The Council has already adopted a bilingual corporate identity.
- 5.1.3. The name and address of the Council will appear bilingually on official headed paper, fax papers and compliment slips, web site and any other promotional material.

Timetable: Current practice and continuing

5.2. Signage

- 5.2.1. All new information signs or those replacing previous signs on Council property will be bilingual, as will any other public information signs for which the Council is responsible. The two languages will appear side by side, with the Welsh version appearing to the left. Where it is not practical, the Welsh version will appear first. The size, quality, legibility and prominence of text will be equal in Welsh and English.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

5.3. Publishing and Printing Material

- 5.3.1. All publications aimed at the public, such as documents, explanatory material or grant forms will be bilingual with both language versions forming one document. The versions will be printed side-by-side where possible to facilitate easy cross-reference, distribution and offer language choice.
- 5.3.2. If Welsh and English versions are published separately they will appear simultaneously, be distributed together and be equally accessible.
- 5.3.3. All press releases will be bilingual and will include a contact name for Welsh language interviews, and will specifically target papurau bro (monthly community papers).
- 5.3.4. All Advertising and publicity activities will be bilingual.
- 5.3.5. Council advertisements and notices – to be placed in the press, on notice boards or any other medium will be bilingual.
- 5.3.6. Job advertisements where Welsh is essential will appear in Welsh in all publications with an explanatory sentence in English as a footnote in bilingual and English medium publications.
- 5.3.7. Job advertisements will appear in English only in English/bilingual publications, apart from when bilingual skills are desirable then the advert will be bilingual.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

5.4. Statutory and promotional functions

- 5.4.1. In the information that is sent to those intending to apply for financial assistance towards local activities, the Council will make it clear that there is need for applicants to describe how they intend to reflect the bilingual nature of the community and their audience in the activity(ies) for which they require financial support. When considering applications, the Council will ensure that applicants have appropriately reflected the linguistic nature of the community and their audience in their application.
- 5.4.2. In submitting proposals the bilingual element will be a matter for the applicant to consider and not for the Council to require as a condition of grant
- 5.4.3. The Council will also notify the applicant that Menter Cwm Gwendraeth can provide advice and practical assistance in relation to the bilingual content of the activity, including information on grants available for this purpose.
- 5.4.4. When the Council is consulted on planning applications, the Council will encourage applicants to erect signs bilingually in locations such as offices, businesses and shops and supermarkets by referring to the linguistic nature of the area.

- 5.4.5. When the Council is consulted on the naming of streets, developments and new estates, the Council will support the use of bilingual names.
- 5.4.6. Where only minor differences exist between the Welsh and English spelling of place, street, ward, or community names, the Council will support the adoption of the Welsh version.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

5.5. Services by Other parties

- 5.5.1. Any arrangements made by the Council to use a third party to deliver services to the public on its behalf will comply with the specific requirements in the Scheme as outlined by the Council. The Council will outline which relevant measures in the Scheme the third party will have to adhere to within the tendering or contract specifications.
- 5.5.2. The Third party will need to confirm that it has complied with the relevant aspects of the Scheme by letter.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

6. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE SCHEME

6.1. Staffing

- 6.1.1. Some of the Council's staff that deal with the public are bilingual. When all posts become vacant some will be filled by bilingual staff so the Council can implement this Scheme.

Timetable: Current practice and continuing

6.2. Administrative Arrangements

- 6.2.1. This scheme has the full support of the Council.
- 6.2.2. The Clerk will be responsible for implementing the Scheme on a day-to-day basis within the Council.
- 6.2.3. According to need, the Clerk will ensure that guidelines and instructions will be available to all who are involved in the implementation of the scheme.

Timetable: From date of scheme approval

6.3. The Translation Service

- 6.3.1. The Clerk will be responsible for arranging the written translation needs of the Council, and will also be responsible for the standard of all Welsh text produced.
- 6.3.2. If the Clerk cannot complete the work within the timescale, the Council will employ an external translator.

- 6.3.3. The Clerk will be responsible for arranging simultaneous translation facilities for all the Council's needs.
- 6.3.4. When needed, this facility will be available for all public meetings arranged by or on behalf of the Council, and in any other Council meeting if that is the decision of the Council.

Timetable: Fully implemented by 31st October 2006

6.4. Monitoring

- 6.4.1. Responsibility for monitoring the Scheme will rest with the Clerk of the Council.
- 6.4.2. The Council will receive a brief annual report on implementing the Scheme that will be displayed locally (for example, the local press, local information boards, monthly paper bro and so on] with a copy being sent to the Welsh Language Board. Also the Council will invite local Welsh speaking residents to offer their views on the service and how it could be improved, by placing a copy of the Report in the Council Offices and library.
- 6.4.3. The Report will deal with every aspect of the Scheme.
- 6.4.4. The Council will welcome suggestions from the public regarding improvements to any aspect of the Scheme (via letter or telephone communication).

Timetable: From date of scheme approval

6.5. Publicity

- 6.5.1. The Council will publicise the Scheme regularly through notice boards.

Timetable: From date of scheme approval

6.6. Contacting the Council

- 6.6.1. Any comments, complaints or suggestions regarding the Scheme should be addressed to:

Mrs. Karin Francis, Town Clerk, Kidwelly Town Council Offices, 2 Bridge Street, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, SA17 4UU.

Tel. No. 01554 890 203

Fax No. 01554 891 048

E-mail: towncouncil@kidwelly.gov.uk
