



Bude-Stratton Town Council

Polici an Yeth Kernewek
Cornish Language Policy

Introduction

- 1.1 The Cornish, Welsh and Breton languages developed from a common indigenous British tongue (Common Brittonic).
- 1.2 The decline in use of the Cornish language accelerated following the suppression of the Prayer Book Rising in Cornwall in 1549, and the imposition of an English language Book of Common Prayer.
- 1.3 The language continued to decline throughout Cornwall's industrial development, all but disappearing by the end of the nineteenth century. There then followed a major reinvigoration of Cornish national identity and attempts to record, promote and teach the language.
- 1.4 In 2002, the UK Government officially recognised the language and included it under the European Charter for the Protection of Regional and Minority Languages. This placed a duty on authorities to *facilitate and encourage the use of the Cornish language*.
- 1.5 In June 2024, it was reported that there had been a 'significant rise' in the number of people learning the language since the COVID pandemic. Increased exposure to the language through popular music and film has also led to a surge in interest.
- 1.6 Cornwall Council estimates that between 2,000 and 5,000 people can speak basic Cornish and believe that number to be on the rise. In 2024, it is estimated that 4,000 people are learning the language in Cornwall.

Our commitment

- 2.1 As a town council in Cornwall, we recognise and value the Cornish language as a distinct component of Cornwall's culture and heritage.
- 2.2 We accept that we have a part to play in the protection and promotion of the Cornish language.
- 2.3 We recognise that Cornish language and culture have a part to play in the promotion of Cornwall and the economic, social and cultural benefit that may derive from it.
- 2.4 We will show our support of Kernewek, the Cornish language, by undertaking to do the following:
 - Welcome members of the public with key Cornish phrases (See appendix 1)
 - Use the Cornish language on our official documents
 - Use Kernewek on signs within our parish and on our buildings and vehicles
 - Use the Cornwall Council translation service to ensure accurate use of the language within our organisation
 - Where appropriate, we will replace the word Cornwall with Kernow wherever it occurs within our organisation.
 - We will participate in Speak Cornish Week each year

Appendix 1

Key Cornish language phrases

Dydh da – Hello

Meur ras – Thank you

Duw genes – Goodbye

Dynnargh dhe..... - Welcome to

Kernow - Cornwall