

Ceredigion County Council

REPORT TO:	Welsh Language Committee
DATE:	5 December 2022
LOCATION:	Chamber & Hybrid
TITLE:	Ceredigion County Council promotes Welsh services by taking part in: 1. Shwmae day 2022 2. Welsh Language Rights Day 2022
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	To inform the members of the Language Committee 1. How the Council celebrated Shwmae Day 15 October 2022 2. Ceredigion County Council participating in Welsh Language Rights Day 7 December 2022

BACKGROUND:

1. Shwmae Day 15 October 2022

Shwmae Day aims to be a special national day for promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh. In accordance with the Welsh Language Standards, Ceredigion County Council has a statutory duty to promote and facilitate the Welsh language across the County.

The National Shwmae Day is an opportunity to show that the language belongs to everyone, Welsh learners, fluent Welsh speakers or those just shy of their Welsh. This year, Ceredigion County Council used the day to celebrate the achievements of our staff who have set out to learn the language or increase their proficiency of Welsh.

Case Study: Ceredigion County Council Celebrates Welsh Learner on Shwmae day 2022

Melisa is an Essential Skills Training Officer working at Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training (HTC). She has been studying Welsh on the Council's Work Welsh Scheme for three years. As a crowning achievement to her commitment to her studies, Melisa Elek passed her Advanced level Welsh exam in the Summer of 2022. She truly is now one of the new Welsh speakers of Ceredigion.

Originally from Canada with her family's roots in Croatia, Melisa Elek is a citizen of the world. She lived in many places across the world before coming to Ceredigion, making her home here because she felt the county was a wonderful place to raise a family. She moved to Wales determined to learn and use the Welsh language. By now she uses Welsh regularly in her personal and professional life. She speaks

Welsh merrily with friends and neighbours. At work, she uses Welsh regularly with her colleagues and with the students in her class.



In the Image: Councillor Catrin M S Davies, Ceredigion Learner of the Year Melisa Elek, and the Work Welsh Training Officer Huw Owen.

In accepting the Ceredigion County Council Learner of the Year award, Melisa Elek said: “Give it a go, and don’t give up! It’s certainly worth the effort, and learning Welsh enriches the experience of living in Ceredigion and in Wales.”

Ceredigion’s Work Welsh scheme is run in partnership with the National Centre for Learning Welsh. It provides training for staff from all parts of the Council at all levels of learning Welsh. In addition, the programme provides informal learning opportunities to staff, including the Clwb Cinio and many cultural events, in order to provide a holistic experience of the world of Welsh in Ceredigion.

During the awards ceremony, Councillor Catrin M S Davies, Cabinet Member and Chair of the Council’s Language Committee, said: “What a pleasure it is to celebrate Melisa’s efforts and success. In congratulating her and sharing the good news it is also a chance for us as a county to take pride in the fact that we attract and keep new Welsh speakers. Long may this continue, and here’s hoping we can attract, encourage, and assist many more people to join the Welsh-speaking world in Ceredigion. Congratulations to Melisa Elek and best wishes to everyone studying on the Council’s Work Welsh scheme, especially those who have been inspired to start studying this year, as we work together to achieve the target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.”

2. Welsh Language Rights Day: 7 December 2022

The Welsh Language Commissioner is eager that Local Authorities take part in this day. It is an opportunity to promote the availability of Welsh language services to the public.

Background:

Welsh speakers have a right to receive Welsh language services without having to ask for those services. Employees in organisations also have a right to use Welsh in

the workplace. The rights to use the Welsh language are created by the Welsh Language Standards. On Welsh Language Rights Day, the Welsh Language Commissioner is working with public organisations across Wales to highlight the rights that people have to use the language within those organisations.

7 December marks the date on which the Welsh Language Measure was passed by Parliament. The Measure confirms the official status of the Welsh language and establishes the principle that the Welsh language should not be treated less favourably than the English language in Wales. This led to the establishment of rights to use Welsh when dealing with public organisations.

Ceredigion County Council will prepare a press release and develop a video to promote the availability of Welsh-language services and to encourage their use, and will promote the campaign on social media.

RECOMMENDATION:

The report is submitted for information to the attention of members of the Language Committee.

Contact Name: Carys Lewis Morgan
Designation: Welsh Language Policy Officer
Date of Report 5/12/202