

MEETING:	LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE:	JUNE 27, 2014
TITLE:	MYNYDDEODD PAWB CAMPAIGN
AUTHOR:	LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO THE MYNYDDOEDD PAWB CAMPAIGN.

THE MYNYDDOEDD PAWB STATEMENT

At a conference, under the banner of 'Mynyddoedd Pawb' (Everyone's Mountains) a number of organisations and individuals came together at Gwersyll Glan-llyn, Llanuwchllyn on November 23rd, 2013. The conference's aim was to discuss the threat to Welsh names for landscape features such as mountains, valleys and lakes in the face of a process of supplanting those names with English translations or the practice of coining completely different names in English.

Following the conference representatives from the following organisations were tasked with drafting a statement that would encompass the conference's concerns and objectives: Menter Iaith Conwy; Antur Stiniog; Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd, the Welsh Place-names Society; Clwb Mynydda Cymru, Yr Urdd, and the Welsh Language Society, see appendix 1.

Through the networking of the Mentrau Iaith in the north the Mynyddoedd Pawb campaign organisers sought hunaniaith's support.

The Mynyddoedd Pawb's campaign calls on public bodies, third sector organisations and those private concerns active in the environmental, tourism and outdoor pursuit sectors to respect the wealth of Welsh names carried by features of the Welsh landscape.

Specifically the campaign calls on:

- the Welsh Government to bring the changing of long established and traditional place-names under the control of the planning system;
- out-door pursuit centres to respect traditional native place –names;
- public agencies, third sector organisations and private concerns active in the environmental, heritage and tourism sectors to high-light the wealth of Welsh place-names that are an integral part of the Welsh landscape.

The Mynyddoedd Pawb campaign also calls on public bodies, third sector organisations and private concerns that support its aims to publically do so that the campaign will be placed in a stronger position to achieve its goal.

A letter of support has already been sent to the campaign organisers by the chair of hunaniaith's Strategic Direction Group confirming support, see appendix 2.

LANGUAGE COMMITTEE'S PAST DISCUSSIONS

During its meeting of October 1, 2012 the Language Committee discussed the standardisation of names given to streets, houses and locations. At that time it was noted that Gwynedd Council's Language Scheme states:

“.....the Welsh name only will be used by the Council in respect of places, rivers, mountains, etc. and also in respect of the Council's establishments expect where the Council itself has authorised the use of another version/other versions.” (4.2.1.)

The Committee also noted at its meeting in June, 2012 the importance of using local Welsh names for geographical features such as headlands, islands and cliffs etc. and also to ensure the use of Welsh names on the Welsh Coastal Path.

Good will and support for the campaign's aims is widespread and the support of a range of organisations and agencies will assist the campaign in achieving its aims. The Ordnance Survey have already stated, as reported to the Language Committee in October, 2012 have that they are open to considering changing the language of specific names at the request of stake-holders such as local authorities and the Welsh Place-names Society.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Comment on the request for support for the aims of the Mynyddoedd Pawb campaign.

To consider contacting the campaign organisers to declare the Gwynedd Council Language Committee's support for those aims.