

CFA12 Individual 04

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a
Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol | Culture, Communications, Welsh
Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Cymraeg i bawb? | Cymraeg for all?

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn 04 | Evidence from: Individual 04

1. What are the main barriers that prevent wider use of the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers, and what might help to change this?

Living in the Wrexham area, there are actually quite a lot of Welsh-language events but these are mostly at the Saith Seren pub or in dedicated chat groups aimed at Welsh learners. There is definitely a thriving learning community and a community of Welsh as 2nd language speakers, but native speakers seem to stick to mostly speaking Welsh with their families, churches, and jobs, in my experience. I think a challenge living by the border and in a very multicultural area is that English is the default as it is first or second language for most people and this is unlikely to change. I think working with that in mind and celebrating Welsh as part of that is a positive e.g. St David's Day and other public events throughout the year.

2. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

Not every year can be an Eisteddfod year so maybe the local festivals like Focus Wales and WrexFest could be more targeted at a bilingual audience as it would be nice if there was more events aimed at both native speakers and learners e.g. I went to a Tudur Owen comedy night, which attracted a lot of native speakers and some more advanced learners, and it was really nice to feel the sense of community.

3. Can you share examples of successful initiatives or activities that have encouraged Welsh language use in areas where use of the language is limited?

I loved Paul Eastwood and Sara Erddig's art project and would love more things like that.

4. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

It would be nice if more events happened outside of pubs e.g. in arts and music venues, or other community spaces.

5. What impact, in your view, do cultural events such as national Eisteddfodau or Welsh language festivals have on Welsh language use, particularly in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

I think it reminds people that there is a thriving Welsh language and culture and shows that Welsh *is* alive, and used by people of all ages. The only downside of the Eisteddfod in Wrexham is that it will be outside of the town, meaning that it won't be seen or heard by people not already interested in it.

6. How might these events (whether large or small in size) be adapted or improved to better serve communities with fewer Welsh speakers

Being realistic about things in a border place like Wrexham, I think more bilingual events would be the most helpful e.g. bilingual pub quizzes, music nights, board game/coffee mornings, etc... that way people will get used to and develop a more bilingual mindset and an enjoyment of the Welsh language, that could be built on to encourage learning and using Welsh more.

7. Are there any other matters you would like to draw to the Committees attention about the Welsh Government's approach to supporting the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?
