

Welsh translation for community heritage groups

The Welsh language is a key part of heritage and culture of the nation, and as of June 2021 30% of the population were Welsh speakers, with some regions as high as 75% . By making sure materials including websites, publications, social media and press releases are bilingual, community heritage groups will reach wider audiences, speak to people in their preferred or first language, and help to both maintain and develop the use of Welsh for current and future generations.

Many groups can be concerned about their capacity for bilingualism. Translation has a reputation for being costly and sometimes takes a little time, especially if nobody within the community group is a fluent Welsh speaker. There are some ways that groups and organisations can access help with this, or apply for specific funding.

Planning for bilingualism

It is best to have a plan in place to think about how much of your work can be bilingual, what the key priorities are, and how you will achieve it. Will you commit to translating all of your materials, or just key pieces such as your website landing page, your constitution, key social media posts, any project reports? Build a strong plan before you work, that is forward looking and considers medium and long term as well as immediate plans.

Translation requirements need to be built into project planning and strategic documents– both the financial implications and the time it takes. Considering this, build into your plans clear ideas of your priorities. Remember that as a government priority, there is support for both the planning and implementation of Welsh translation.

Think about your audience – there is a considerable difference between north and south welsh, also formal and informal. Who will be reading or interacting with your output? Where will it be read?

It is important to remember that whilst there is no requirement to translate (unless funders specify it their terms and conditions) it has many advantages;

- Can help recruit additional members and wider audiences
- Supported by funders and government
- More accessible – also supported by funders and government
- Recruiting a Welsh speaker can provide an additional resource and reason for someone new to join the group
- Often best done by a group – can facilitate team working
- Provides opportunities for those less able to field work etc
- Helps non- Welsh speakers integrate into Welsh speaking communities
- Boosts Welsh identity

1

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language/annualpopulationsurveyestimatesofpersonsaaged3andoverwhosaytheycanspeakwelsh-by-localauthority-measure>

- Has economic benefits
- Has cultural benefits
- Welsh literature, place names and earlier documents are fascinating!
- Using the Welsh language can provide a different interpretation for understanding a place.

There are some excellent resources available to help with this planning.

Thinking of making an exhibition, interpretation panels, or new signage? The Welsh Language Commissioner has advice on how to design layouts to make sure Welsh and English are balanced - <https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/media/niknstqs/bilingual-design-guide-eng.pdf>

Is your group mainly active through social media? There is some helpful guidance here on making that bilingual: <https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/media/g5bcvvy/using-welsh-on-social-media.pdf>

There are some excellent resources from Third Sector Support Wales, on how to attract Welsh speaker volunteers <https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/app/uploads/2021/02/Attracting-Welsh-Speaking-Volunteers.pdf> and how to promote the Welsh language through volunteering <https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/app/uploads/2021/02/Promoting-Welsh-Language-Through-Volunteering.pdf>

Free services

Helo Blod - up to 500 words a month free

This service is paid for by the Welsh Government, and is available to businesses and charities in Wales. You need to register but it's free, and they return your text within 4 working days.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/heloblod/helo-blod>

Some ideas for 500 words:

- key social media posts
- front page of your website
- information sheet or guide
- press release about an event, exhibition, or updates

Helo Blod - face-to-face

Helo Blod can also provide face-to-face translation and Welsh language help, from their local advisors. We know many people from community heritage groups prefer in-person contact to doing things online, so this can be a good way to connect with Welsh language services and meet new people at the same time.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/heloblod/helo-blod-local>

Welsh Language Commissioner

The Welsh Language Commissioner was established by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. . This service offers to proofread up to 1000 words of Welsh, so is good for groups with Welsh learners who are drafting their own translations.

<https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/businesses-and-charities/proofreading>

Voluntary Councils across Wales

Local associations known as “Voluntary Councils” supporting voluntary organisations often have free or discounted translation services, especially in the wake of Coronavirus.

These will change depending on current funding circumstances of each group. To find out the most up to date information, it is best to look up your local group from the list below and search by “Welsh Translation” or “Welsh language provision”.

Association	Region covered	Website
AVOW (Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham)	Wrexham	https://avow.org/
BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations)	Bridgend	https://www.bavo.org.uk/
C3SC (Cardiff First Sector Council)	Cardiff	https://c3sc.org.uk/
CAVS (Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services)	Carmarthenshire	https://cavs.org.uk/
CAVO (Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations)	Ceredigion	https://www.cavo.org.uk
CVSC - Community and Voluntary Support Conwy	Conwy	https://www.cvsc.org.uk/
DVSC (Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council)	Denbighshire	https://www.dvsc.co.uk/
FLVC (Flintshire Local Voluntary Council)	Flintshire	https://www.flvc.org.uk/en/
GVS - Glamorgan Voluntary Services	Glamorgan	https://www.gvs.wales/

GAVO - Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations	Gwent	https://www.gavo.org.uk/
Interlink (Rhondda Cynon Taff)	RCT	http://www.interlinkrct.org.uk/
Mantell Gwynedd	Gwynedd	https://mantellgwynedd.com/
Medrwn Mon (Isle of Anglesey)	Anglesey	https://www.medrwnmon.org/en/home
NPTCVS - Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services	Neath Port Talbot	https://www.nptcvs.wales/
PAVO (Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations)	Powys	https://www.pavo.org.uk/home.html
PAVS (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services)	Pembrokeshire	https://www.pavs.org.uk/
SCVS (Swansea Council for Voluntary Service)	Swansea	https://www.scvs.org.uk/
TVA (Torfaen Voluntary Alliance)	https://tvawales.org.uk/	https://tvawales.org.uk/
VAMT - Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil		https://www.vamt.net/en

Paid-for services

The benchmark of quality for Welsh translation is Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru (the association of Welsh translators and interpreters) and when looking for a translator for larger pieces of work, or when putting together funding bids or budgets, it is important to get quotes from reputable businesses or independent translators who are members of this association.

<https://www.cyfieithwyr.cymru/en/>

Translation of online events over Zoom and similar platforms

If you are running online talks or events, simultaneous translation into Welsh will help you welcome more people to listen in their preferred or first language. It does not have to be expensive, and specific funding could be sought to pay for this provision.

The National Museum of Wales has an excellent guide to facilitating this kind of translation work:

https://museum.wales/media/49353/Zoom-and-translation_guidelines.pdf

There is also a comprehensive guide to hosting bilingual online meetings from the Welsh Language Commissioner:

<https://www.welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/media/f2wn1mwu/20200511-dg-s-bilingual-video-meetings.pdf>