

Declaration agreed upon at the ‘Mynyddoedd Pawb’ conference at Gwersyll Glan-Ilyn, Llanuwchllyn on November 23rd, 2013.

“We wish to express our concern that there are processes at work that are endangering Welsh place names. The processes we refer to are **1.** Ignoring a Welsh name and placing an English name in its place. **2.** Needlessly placing an English name next to a Welsh name with the English name increasingly used in publications and in the media. **3.** Omitting Welsh place names from maps, with English names being conceived for those locations in their place. **4.** Replacing original Welsh place names through the use of English translations.

We are of the opinion that an awareness of the importance of safeguarding Welsh place names needs to be increased and that organisations and voluntary societies locally, regionally and nationally have a vital role in this task. Also, schools should ensure that children and young people are given the opportunity to appreciate the wealth of local Welsh names as part of their national heritage.

We believe that place names, together with the cultural inheritance and history inked to them should be an integral part of environmental courses within further and higher education as well as outdoor pursuit activities provided by other organisations. It must be ensured that training organisations, centres and clubs involved with mountaineering and outdoor pursuits respect Welsh place names.

We ask that the relevant organisations, such as the Welsh Government, Local Authorities, Natural Resources Wales, The National Trust and the National Park Authorities (who have a duty to “Protect and enhancecultural heritage of the National Park”) together with other organisations in the statutory, public, voluntary and private sectors to take appropriate steps to safeguard Welsh place names.”

We should celebrate the wealth of our place names:

- 1) to promote an interest in the Welsh language and to ensure and increase in its use;
- 2) to increase a sense of identity amongst local communities so that they may appreciate and share the richness of their inheritance with others;
- 3) so that an interest and increased awareness amongst tourists in the richness of our inheritance can bring educational and economic benefits.

(This statement was drafted and agreed by representatives from: Menter Iaith Conwy, Antur Stiniog, The Welsh Place-name Society, Clwb Mynydda Cymru, Cymdeithas Edward Llwyd, Yr Urdd, The Welsh Language Society)