

Rish ymmodee bleantyn ta thieyn souree er ve oyr argane ayns ardjyn çheerey trooid-magh ny hellanyn shoh. Ta sleih berçhagh voish ny baljyn mooarey kionnaghey lheid ny thieyn as faagail ad follym cooid vooar jeh'n vlein, red ta mooadaghey price ny thieyn as jannoo eh doillee da sleih va ruggit as troggit 'sy voayl, er-lheh yn sleih aegey, fort y ve oc dy chionnagh thie as cur cass er yn 'aarey shelloo'. Ta'n sleih aegey eginit dy ghleashagh ersooyl gys ny baljyn dy hirrey obbyr as ynnyd-vaghee, as ta bea heshoil ny hardjyn çheerey creenaghey rhyrbee.

Er y gherrit shoh ta paart dy choonseilyn ynnydagh er n'ghoaill ass laue dy lhiettal shoh liorish jannoo eh mee-lowal dy chreck thieyn noa da sleih ta thie oc hannah as nagh vel kiangley oc rish yn voayl, ny liorish troggal keeshyn er thieyn souree. She yn chied red ghow 80% jeh cummaltee St Ives 'sy Chorn myr reih dy chur ayns bree ayns referendum ayns Mee Boaldyn fo pooaraghyn noa dy chroo 'plannyn naboonys' va currit lesh stiagh liorish reiltys Lunnin. Ta lhiaseyderyn shelloo er chur y lane fo'n phlan shoh hannah ayns ny quaiyllyn my ta, as ta'n Ard-Olloo Christopher Balch voish Ollooscoil Phlymouth gra 'my ta shiu plooghey thieyn noa, oddagh adsyn ta aa-hieyn lhieu goaill toshiaght dy chionnagh thieyn t'ayn hannah', red oddagh mooadaghey price thieyn ny sodjey. Shegin tastey y ghoaill neesht nagh vel monney rheamys er-mayrn son thieyn noa 'sy valley ansherbee, myr shen cha vel eh baghtal dy jean yn plan noa caghlaa price shelloo monney. Ny-yeih, shimmey ta freayll sooill er ny ta taghyrt ayns St Ives, as my vees eh gobbraghey, fodmayd jerkal dy jed referendumyn ynnydagh er cummal ayns boayl ny ghaa elley dy gerrid.

Ayns y Thalloo Vretnagh ta'n ghlare çheet stiagh 'sy chooish neesht. Ry foddey t'adsyn ta streeu dy choadey as dy aa-vioghey yn ghlare er ve boirit mychione thieyn souree troggal price shelloo as cur er sleih aegey as Bretnish oc dy ghleashagh ersooyl ass ny buill raad stroshey ta'n ghlare. Nish ta coonseilyn goaill toshiaght dy yannoo red ennagh mychione shoh liorish troggal keeshyn er thieyn souree. Agh t'ad er ve feer twoaiagh choud shoh. Ga dy chossyn ad y chairys er y gherrit shoh dy hroggal keesh er thieyn souree liorish wheesh as 100%, ta Anglesey as Ceredigion aignit gyn dy hroggal ee agh liorish 25%, as Pembrokeshire liorish 50%. Cha vel Gwynedd, raad ta ny hardjyn Bretnish stroshey, jannoo veg ec y traa t'ayn agh fieau dy akin cre haghrys ayns ny counteeyn elley.

Ta coonseil Gwynedd imneagh dy voddagh sleih ta thieyn souree lhieu ve brasnit dy chur ny thieyn oc magh er mayl paart jeh'n vlein, recortys ny thieyn oc myr sheshaght-ghellal, as trooid shen shaghey geck keesh choonseil ooilley-dy-lhearagh. Ta paart dy leih, ga dy vel ad fakin yn trubbyl lesh thieyn souree, credjal dy beagh eh neu-chairagh dy voadaghey keeshyn orroosyn nagh vel jannoo monney ymmyd jeh shirveishyn ynnydagh. Dy jinnagh keesh choonseil girree dy doaltattym, as ram thieyn souree goll er creck, veagh price thieyn tuittym dy doaltattym, red veagh mie daesyn ta gleck dy chur cass er yn aarey shelloo, agh cha beagh ny Bretnee ynnydagh ta thieyn oc hannah feer wooiagh dy akin cooid vooar jeh feeagh nyn dhie lheid ersooyl.

Red elley: dy beagh earroo mooar dy hieyn souree çheet dy ve nyn ynnyd-vaghee farraghtagh, veagh lane jeu er nyn gionnaghey liorish Sostnee, as ta Baarlagh ta cummal ayns thie car ny bleaney as votal ayns teiyghyn ynnydagh son shickyrys ny s'danjeyree da'n Vretnish na thieyn souree ta follym son y chooid smoo. Oddagh yn sleih ta thieyn souree lhieu neesht prowal shenn chluke MPyn, 'flipping', ta shen lhiggey orroo dy re yn thie 'sy Thalloo Vretnagh yn ard ynnyd-vaghee oc as dy re thie souree yn thie ayns Sostyn. Cha vel ansooryn aashagh son shoh ooilley. Agh gyn dooyt t'eh mie dy vel ny coonseilyn jeeaghyn stiagh 'sy chooish fy-yerrey hoal.

For years summer homes have been a cause of contention in rural communities throughout the British Isles. Affluent people from the cities buy such houses and leave them empty for much of the year, which increases house prices and makes it difficult for local people, especially the young, to afford to buy a house and get a foot on the property ladder. The young are forced to move away to the cities to find work and a place to live, and the rural communities wither.

Recently some local councils have begun to restrict this by banning the selling of new houses to those who already own a home and have no connection to the area, or by increasing taxes on summer homes. The first course was chosen by 80% of residents of St Ives in Cornwall in a referendum in May under new powers to create 'neighbourhood plans' introduced by the Westminster government. The plan has already been challenged in the courts, however, and Prof. Christopher Balch of Plymouth University claims that 'if you choke off new homes, second home owners may start buying existing homes', which could further increase house prices. It should be noted also that there is not much room left for new houses in the town anyway, so it is not clear that the new policy will affect the price of property that much. Nevertheless, many communities are keeping a close eye on events in St Ives, and if it works, we can expect to see further referendums elsewhere before long.

In Wales the language is also a factor. For a long time language campaigners have been concerned about summer homes raising property prices and forcing young Welsh speakers to move away out of the strongholds of the language. Now councils are beginning to do something about this by raising taxes on summer homes. But they have been very cautious so far. Although they recently gained the right to increase council tax on summer homes by as much as 100%, Anglesey and Ceredigion only intend to impose a premium of 25%, and Pembrokeshire 50%. Gwynedd, where the strongest Welsh-speaking communities are located, is doing nothing at present but waiting to see what happens in the other counties.

Gwynedd council is worried that second-home owners could react to tax increases by renting out their houses part of the year, registering the houses as businesses, and thus avoid paying council tax altogether. Some people, though they see the problems with second homes, believe it would be unfair to increase taxes on those who make little use of local services. If council tax rose suddenly, it would be good for those struggling to get their feet on the property ladder, but local Welsh-speakers themselves would be none too pleased to see a significant portion of the value of their houses disappear.

Another thing: if a large number of summer homes became permanent residences, many of them would be bought by English-speaking incomers, and an English-speaker who lives in a property all year and votes in local elections is certainly more dangerous to the Welsh language than summer homes that are mostly empty. Second home owners could also try the old trick of MPs, 'flipping', that is, pretend that the house in Wales is their primary residence and that the house in England is a summer home. There are no easy answers to all this. But it is probably a good thing that councils are finally looking into the matter.