Rish ymmodee bleantyn ta thieyn souree er ve oyr argane ayns ardjyn cheerey trooid-magh ny hellanyn shoh. Ta sleih berçhagh voish ny baljyn mooarey kinnaghegy hheid ny thieyn as faagail ad follym cooid voor jeh’n vlein, red ta mooadaghegy price ny thieyn as jannoo eh doillc da sleih va ruggit as troggit ‘sy voayl, er-lheh yn sleih aegy, fort y ve oc dy chionnagh thie as cur cass er yn ‘aarey shello’. Ta’n sleih aegy eginit dy ghleashagh ersooyl gys ny baljyn dy hierry obbey as nynd-vaghee, as ta bea heshoil ny hardjyn cheerey creenagehy rhymbee.

Er y gherrit shoh ta paart dy choonseilyn ynnydagh er n’ghoaiill 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 brea ayns referendum ayns Mee Boaldyn fo pooaraghyn noa dy chroo ‘plannyn naboony’s va currit lesh stiagh liorish reiltsy 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 Ollooscoill Phlymouth gra ‘my ta shiu plooqgey thieyn noa, oddagh adsyn ta aa-hieyn liuoe goaill toshiaight dy chionnagh thieyn t’ayn hannah’, red oddagh mooadaghegy price thieyn ny sodjey. Segin tastey y ghoaiill neesht nagh vel monney rheimes er-mayrn son thieyn noa ’sy valley ansherbee, myr shen cha vel eh baghtal dy jea yn plan noa caghlaa price shelloo monney. Ny-yei, shimmey ta freayll sooiull er ny ta taghyrtr ayns St Ives, as my vees eh gobbraghey, fodemayd jerkal dy jed referendumyn ynnydagh er cunnal ayns boayl ny ghaa elley dy gerrid.

Ayns y Thalloo Vretnagh ta’n ghlaire çheet stiagh ’sy chooish neesht. Ry foddey t’adsyn ta streeu dy choadey as dy aa-vioqgey yn ghlaire er ve boirit mychione thieyn souree troggal price shelloo as cur er sleih aegy as Brettish oc dy ghleashagh ersooyl ass ny buill raad stroshey ta’n ghlaire. Nish ta coonseiln goaill toshiaight dy jannoo red ennagh mychione shoh liorish troggal keeshyn er thieyn souree. Agh t’ad er ve feer twoiaigh choud shoh. Ga dy chossyn ad y chairys er y gherrit shoh dy hrooggal keesh er thieyn souree liorish wheesh as 100%, ta Anglesey as Ceredigion aignit gyn dy hrooggal ee agh liorish 25%, as Pembrokeshire liorish 50%. Cha vel Gwynedd, raad y tu n y hardjyn Brettish stroshey, jannoo veg ec y traat t’ayn agh fieau dy akin cre haghryrs ayns ny counteeyn elley.

Ta coonseil Gwynedd imneagh dy voddagh sleih ta thieyn souree liuoe ve brasnit dy chur ny thieyn oc magh er mayl paart jeh’n vlein, recortys ny thieyn oc myr sheshaght-ghellal, as trooid shen shaghney geeck keesh coonseil oolilley-dy-leearagh. Ta paart dy leih, ga dy vel ad fakin yn trubbyl lesh thieyn souree, credjal dy beagh eh neu-chairagh dy vooadaghe keeshyn orroosyn nagh vel jannoo monney ymmyd jeh shirveishyn ynnydagh. Dy jinnagh keesh coonseil girree dy doaltattym, as ram thieyn souree goll er creck, veagh price thieyn tuittym dy doaltattym, red veagh mie dauesyn ta gleck dy chur cass er yn aarey shelloo, agh cha beagh ny Brettne ynnydagh ta thieyn oc hannah feer woioagh dy akin cooid voor jeh feeagh nyn dhiie lheie ersooyl.

Red elley: dy beagh earroo mooar dy hieyn souree çheet dy ve nyn ynnyd-vaghee farraghtagh, veagh lane jeu er nyn gionnaghegy liorish Sostnee, as ta Baarlagh ta cummal ayns thie car ny bleaneay 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 lihue neesht prowal shenn chluke MPyn, ‘flipping’, ta shen lliggey 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 oolilley. 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.