



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

August News Briefing, 2019

Community Transport

Take Me Too! launched by First Minister Mark Drakeford

On 13th August, at the Pembrokeshire County Show, Welsh Government First Minister Mark Drakeford launched Take Me Too! -- a PACTO (Pembrokeshire Community Transport charity) project matching people who need transport with someone who is going their way, and is happy to give them a lift.

The goal is for everyone in Pembrokeshire to be able to make the journeys they need and want to make. If there isn't public transport or a taxi available when and where it's needed (or if money is tight) they will try and find someone who can offer a lift. This way people can help each other out, save money (it's not too expensive for the passenger and the driver gets a bit of help with the cost of the journey too) and help save the planet too! 'It also helps us meet new people and builds happier, more connected communities for us all to live in'.

Take Me Too! is a small part of a growing global journey sharing movement. People have been sharing journeys in Pembrokeshire since long before the motor car, but not everyone knows who they can ask for a lift or who to offer a lift to. Take Me Too aims to fill that gap.

Visit <https://www.takemetoo.org.uk> for more information and to join up! Take Me Too! is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, as part of their Wales Rural Programme.

South West Wales Joint Regional Transport Forum

Open session held on 6th August in Carmarthen – Matters considered

1. The South West and Mid Wales Transport Model. 'Ongoing works to develop a transport model for Wales', a presentation by Paul Chase, Strategic Transport Analysis Manager (Transport for Wales). Topics of relevance to North Pembrokeshire and the surrounding area:

1.1 *Expected uses:*

- Assessing development cumulative impact and supporting plan making.
- Supporting scheme development/statutory processes and assisting in decision making.

1.2 *Consideration of various modes of travel include:*

- Rail, major bus improvements, and active travel schemes (reducing car use).
- N.B. Gemma Elliott queried if community transport will be covered in the model. Paul Chase is to arrange a separate meeting with her to discuss this.

1.3 *Levels of detail:*

- The whole of Wales will be fully modelled with some areas being modelled in more detail.
- Areas of detailed modelling have been agreed with each LA in the modelling stakeholder group.
- Should any areas outside those identified need to be modelled in detail in the future this can be added at a later date.

1.4 *Public transport data collection:*

- Origin-Destination interviews, boarding & alighting counts, on-board counts, and station car park counts.
- Covers all of the Fully Modelled area, with particular focus on Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Haverfordwest/Milford Haven/Pembroke, Swansea/Llanelli/NPT.
- N.B. With the omission of the Fishguard and Heart of Wales lines, the data will be incomplete.

2. The METRO project involving work streams relating to rail and bus options, accessibility and integration and coordination.

3. Welsh Government Funding Allocations 2019/20. Updates were given by each of the four LA's on WG funding awarded for the period.

4. Key Partner Updates

4.1 *Transport Focus – David Beer*

- Transport Focus is recruiting a new stakeholder manager post, to be based in Cardiff, but working across Wales and the Borders. Visit www.transportfocus.org.uk/about/careers/ for details. The closing date is 12th August.

4.2 *TfW rail Services – Huw Evans*

- The upgrade of rolling stock is ongoing but is not without challenges.
- Background works have been ongoing into driver training, creating rail washing facilities, and installing ABS braking systems.
- Works have been ongoing into the revisions for the December timetable with additional early and late trains and additional Sunday services possible.
- There are 7 new community rail partnerships in West Wales

4.3 *Bus Users Cymru – Barkley Davies*

- Bus users Cymru operates a dispute resolution service. Between April and July 147 cases have been investigated. Matters mainly relate to bus reliability, driver attitude and failure to stop.
- Roadshows will be held in Neath and Port Talbot to raise awareness of the need to renew concessionary passes at the end of the year and the changes to the my travel pass (age change from 16/18 to 16/21)

Trains – My Train Wales

From a Pembrokeshire County Council News Release, 30th July.

'An initiative promoting the benefits of travelling by train to young people across South and West Wales has won an award. My Train Wales is a regional project and partnership between the local authorities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Supported and funded by Great Western Railway (GWR), it is estimated to have reached over 24,000 primary and secondary school pupils over the three years it has been operating.

The scheme's success was recognised when it won its category at the Arts and Business Cymru Awards held at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff earlier this month.

Working with AB Cymru, and Breaking Barriers Community Arts, secondary school pupils from Ysgol Bae Baglan developed and produced an interactive online game using augmented reality and video footage. Highlighting the environmental benefits of train travel and crucial safety issues, the game will be offered to 2,500 primary school pupils across the region from September.

Judges at the awards praised the innovative approach of My Train Wales. In their adjudication, they felt the multi-layered benefits of the impressive collaboration made it the clear winner of the Arts, Business and Environment category.

Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure, Phil Baker, said: "This is excellent news for a worthwhile initiative, delivered to schools across South West Wales, helping to break down the barriers to rail travel. It focuses on the next generation of rail users, encouraging train use as well as demonstrating its accessibility and sustainability as a mode of transport."

GWR's Assistant Regional Development Manager Lewis Ward said: "We're proud to support the excellent My Train Wales project which continues to raise awareness of railway safety, and sustainable travel by train. Through our Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, the project has been able help young people become familiar with using the railway safely and independently; a message that's especially important as we head into the summer holiday season."

The Forum's work is supported by:

Individual Members (£5 p.a.), Family Members (£8 p.a.) & Corporate Members (£12 p.a.)

(Corporate members include town and community councils, transport operators, and groups, organisations and associations with a transport interest)

For further information, contact the Secretary, 2 Hill Terrace, Fishguard SA65 9LU
Tel: (01348) 874217. Email: hattiwoakes@gmail.com

