



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – November 2011

### **A big WIN for the Vote “YES!” campaign to fund new wheels for Fishguard!**

The project to fund the purchase of a new community minibus for the Fishguard - Newport - Letterston area has been awarded £6,000 in the recent NatWest Community Force vote.

A huge **Thank You** from the campaign organisers to all the supporters. With hopes that the new bus will be on the road next spring!

### **Community Transport**

Clydau Connections Rural Transport Project. Many transport issues have been identified in the Clydau area.

- Current public transport provision is infrequent and in many cases not fully utilised by community residents.
- There is confusion about services currently provided by both public and community transport providers.
- Travel to work, health, education and leisure activities is not feasible via current public transport provision. Community transport services are more frequent but do not cater for work or out of hours journeys. Country Car usage is restricted to weekly travel only.
- There are considerable transport needs among 16-19 year olds re accessing services and activities in rural Pembrokeshire.

The Welsh Government has now given the go ahead for the Clydau Connections Rural Transport Project that will provide:

- Improved information about transport services and mobile services in the area.
- Personalised travel planning / training.
- The development of a car club, with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible car/people carrier.
- The development of transport services to meet needs which aren't currently served.
- Volunteer driver recruitment.

### **Ferries and Marina Development**

Withdrawal of the Fishguard-Rosslare Fast Ferry Service. In a *County Echo* report (4<sup>th</sup> November), Ian Davies, Stena Line's route director, confirmed that the fast craft had been sold. He added that 'with the current high fuel price and current economic climate we have no immediate plans to replace the craft.' The Forum regrets that the summer catamaran services have been withdrawn and hopes that in future improved circumstances may make it possible to re-introduce them.

Fishguard Harbour Marina. The marina planning application has now been formally submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council. The plans include a 450 berth marina with workshops, stores and ancillary facilities, 253 residential apartments with landscaped gardens, a 19 acre platform for the potential expansion of the existing Stena Line port, and a new, publicly-accessible promenade and waterfront, together with visitor parking. The application documents can be consulted in the Fishguard Library (located upstairs in Fishguard's Town Hall in Market Square) and in Ocean Lab (located on the Parrog in Goodwick).

### **Network Rail Improves the Track at Goodwick Station**

On 25<sup>th</sup> November *The County Echo* reported on improvements made to the track that pave the way for re-opening the old station. The line was closed between 08.30 on 15<sup>th</sup> November to 12.30 the next day, while work to realign the railway line along the length of the platform was carried out - watched and photographed with keen interest by members of the community. The Forum warmly

welcomes this development - a fore-runner to further work that is in the pipeline to re-open the station and provide more convenient passenger access to the new train services.

## **New Fishguard Train Services**

The Forum is continuing to gather information about passenger journeys on the new train services, which continue to vary widely in terms of origin/destination and character. Passengers are travelling to attend meetings, go to work, visit friends and family members, go on holiday, attend medical appointments or visit someone in hospital, attend a funeral, go to football and rugby matches. Some of the more unusual trips were: the best man going to attend a surprise Diamond Wedding anniversary in Cardiff, a New York actor coming to perform at Fishguard's Theatr Gwaun, a passenger with a collapsible bike heading for a bike shop in Carmarthen, and a gentleman also going to Carmarthen - to collect a pedigree cat!

## **Public Transport Users Committee (PTUC)**

The Public Transport Users' Committee for Wales is an advisory committee responsible for providing advice to Welsh Ministers about strategic issues relating to public transport services in Wales. The Committee takes an independent strategic overview of public transport services and facilities across Wales and makes recommendations to Welsh Ministers on a range of issues relating to public transport.

The Committee consists of non-executive members, including a chairperson and nine Committee members. One of these members is also the Welsh representative on the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC). The Committee meets 4 times a year. The meetings are held on a rotational basis in the four transport regions of Wales. (North, Mid, South West and South East Wales).

The main focus of the Committee is to advise Welsh Minister's on option based solutions to:

- increase the appeal of public transport;
- promote social inclusion through public transport services;
- improve accessibility, safety and mobility of public transport services;
- encourage sustainable travel and support integrated transport and
- encourage a shift from using the private car to using public transport.

The Committee has held three meetings so far: in Swansea, Llandudno Junction and Llandrindod Wells. They have heard presentations from Bus Users UK Cymru, Medrwn Môn (an Anglesey community transport scheme), Stuart Cole, Taith, Passenger Focus, the Community Transport Association (Wales), TraCC, Children in Wales and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales.

Papers presented to the Committee are found under 'Committee Meetings' and include the following:

- Public Transport Information: Local Bus Services (20-21 July).
- Evidence Gathering Exercise (20-21 July).
- Information Providers Sub-Committee Report. To find out how operators and local authorities take into account the needs of users when determining information provision (28-29 September).
- Users Sub-Committee Report (28-29 September).

For more information about PTUC see: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/public/ptuc/?lang=en>.

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The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum is an independent voluntary group that works for the provision of an effective integrated transport system in the North Pembrokeshire area, promotes the benefits of public transport and works towards the greater use of public transport systems.

The Forum is a member of Bus Users UK Cymru, the Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire and the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association.

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)

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