



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – December 2016

National Transport Authority - NTA (Republic of Ireland) Rail Consultation

The Forum has been informed that the NTA, along with Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) and the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross, has launched a process of consultation around the Rail Review 2016 Report. The Rosslare-Gorey section of the Rosslare – Dublin line and the entire Waterford – Clonmel – Limerick Junction line (continuation of the Rosslare–Waterford line which closed in 2010) are among the lines proposed for possible closure to plug the funding gap that has arisen.

The consultation gives respondents the opportunity to provide the NTA with public and stakeholder opinion on an optimal rail network for Ireland and its funding. Respondents to the consultation are free to comment only on some of the questions. In its response, the Forum will object to the proposed closure of rail services to Rosslare in view of the pivotal significance of Stena Line's Rail and Sale 'nonstop-express services' at both Fishguard Harbour and Rosslare Europort. Substitute bus services would undoubtedly have extremely negative consequences for tourism businesses, leisure activities, as well as for travel to employment and family visits.

View all documents at: www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations/consultation-on-rail-review-2016/. To provide a response click on '2016 Rail Review Consultation' and download the questionnaire as well as further information, all of which is located in the Appendix. The closing date is 18th January 2017. Return responses by email to: railconsultation@nationaltransport.ie or post to: National Transport Authority, Dún Scéine, Iveagh Court, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2, D02 WT20, Republic of Ireland.

All submissions and observations that are received within the timeframe will be taken into consideration. Submissions must include the full name and address of the person making the submission and where relevant the name of the body or organisation represented.

North Pembrokeshire Railway Closure, 1917

A number of events to mark the centenary of the closure will be held at the end of January. *The County Echo* issue of 30th December has reported that the events are being organised by Little Newcastle, Maenclochog, Puncheston and Rosebush, the four communities that were affected by the closure:

- Friday, 20th January. A film on the history of the line produced by pupils of Ysgol Casmael, Puncheston School, at 7pm with a small admission charge.
- Saturday, 21st January. A brief talk by Emyr Phillips in the morning, followed by a guided walk along the track bed as far as Maenclochog Tunnel. Walkers to meet at Maenclochog Community Hall. Afterwards there is an opportunity to buy lunch at Tafarn Sinc, Rosebush, but advance booking is essential. In the afternoon Peter Cloughton will lead a walk around the Rosebush Quarries.
- Sunday, 22nd January. In the afternoon, a 1662 Prayer Book Evensong at St Peter's Church, Little Newcastle, when Marilyn Lewis's Cor Jemima will perform. The service will be followed by a cottage tea at the village's Old School, priced at £3.

For further details contact Alun Ifans at alunifans@hotmail.com or on 01437 532603.

Pembrokeshire Access Group – Big Access Awards

'Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, the Pembrokeshire Access Group is planning a conference called The Big Access Talk as part of their Community Voice – Planning Together Project. This exciting event will be held on Thursday 18th May 2017. A highlight of this event will be the Big Access Awards, designed to reward businesses in Pembrokeshire for providing outstanding services for disabled people. You are invited to nominate your favourite businesses'.

Nomination forms should be received by 31st March 2017 and sent to: Big Access Talk, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services, (PAVS), High Street, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 2DA or jessica@bigaccesstalk.com.

An electronic copy of this form is also available on www.bigaccesstalk.com. Alternative formats are available from jessica@bigaccesstalk.com or 01437 775148.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

'The Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum would like to invite you to attend a workshop on Monday the 9th of January from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the Haverfordwest Leisure Centre to discuss potential solutions to improving access to outdoor recreational sites and experiencing recreational activity'.

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum conducted a survey and produced a report earlier this year that identified barriers to outdoor adventure recreation. This workshop aims to build on the findings of the report by sharing best practice and discussing issues, and specifically will focus on Perception, Logistical and Physical barriers. Visit www.pembrokeshireoutdoors.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/RADA-Survey-Report.pdf to view/download the report.

Spaces at the event are limited because of the space available so please let your intentions of attending be known by registering for the event at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/potential-solutions-to-improving-access-to-outdoor-recreational-sites-and-experiencing-recreational-tickets-30243683672. Registration is free. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Tel: 01646 405696 or Email: pcf@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk

Transport for Wales (TfW) – December E-bulletin

TfW's new E-bulletin will give updates on the progress of the procurement process for the new Wales and Borders Rail Service and Metro. Visit <http://gov.wales/topics/transport/transport-for-wales/news-and-events/e-bulletin/?lang=en> to download a copy of the bulletin. Also check its new website: www.gov.wales/transportforwales and for the latest updates follow TfW on Twitter @transport_wales.

Wales and Borders Rail Franchise Procurement

Bidders have been selected to progress to the next stage in the procurement process to operate rail services in Wales and the Borders from October 2018, as well take forward key aspects of the next stage of Metro.

The Operator and Development Partner (ODP) will help deliver on the Welsh Government's commitment to an improved, faster and more accessible rail service fit for modern Wales. The four pre-qualified ODP bidders are: Abellio Rail Cymru, Arriva Rail Wales/Rheilffyrdd Arriva Cymru Limited, KeolisAmey and MTR Corporation (Cymru) Ltd.

The bidders' outline solutions have been received and are currently being evaluated. The process of face-to-face dialogue will start in the New Year, the Final Tender will be between July to September 2017, and the Contract Award will be made in December 2017.

To date the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum has met with representatives from Abellio Rail Cymru, Arriva Rail Wales and MTR Corporation (Cymru) to discuss its priorities for services in the next franchise, and a meeting with KeolisAmey is in the pipeline.

Walking - Walks for Families

In a 28th December article *The Western Telegraph* provided more information about Karel Mujica's walking booklet - featured on the Briefing's covering message. This Fishguard photographer put together *Wellies Not Included* to meet the requirements of her children, with the help of Refreshing North Pembrokeshire. She adds 'The book is aimed at families of all ages, the keys are designed to be simple so you can pick and choose which walks, depending on the ages and capabilities of your family – grandparents included'. People can get hold of the booklet by emailing karelmujica@gmail.com or gwaundesigns@gmail.com or visiting the Wellies Not Included Facebook page. It is also available from Seaways Bookshop, Ty Cwtch and Buttontree Lane in Fishguard, and will be distributed across Pembrokeshire in the New Year. Anyone interested in selling it can contact Karel on one of the email addresses above.

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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'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
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