



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## July News Briefing, 2019

### Accessibility

#### *Appointment of Transport for Wales Accessibility and Inclusion Manager*

In an 11<sup>th</sup> July news release Transport for Wales (TfW) announced the appointment of Dr Robert Gravelle to this post.

Dr Gravelle, who is disabled himself, said 'There is a massive amount of work to be done in listening and addressing the needs of the whole community but particularly those with a range of disabilities including hidden disabilities, mental health, hearing and sight impairments and anyone on the fringes of society. The economic and societal benefits that access to quality, reliable and affordable public transport can give communities is a significant driver; giving people in communities across our network better access to opportunities'.

Key changes he is planning to lead on include:

- Ensuring best practice accessibility is imbedded in station designs, refurbishment programs and rolling stock.
- Developing an Accessibility and Inclusion Group with representatives from communities with differing needs and insights.
- Imbedding a new inclusive training regime to cover 1,600 staff in the first year and supporting the annual implementation of 12 internships for disabled people.
- Developing assisted booking systems and assisted travel to better support the customer.
- Developing user-based initiatives such as dementia friendly stations, the Sunflower Lanyard scheme (where a strap worn around your neck lets others know that you have hidden disabilities) and Orange Wallet.

### Buses and Community Transport

#### *Demand-responsive transport pilot project*

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, *The Western Telegraph* reported that 'a pilot project to test a flexible bus service, with journeys based on requests rather than fixed routes, is to take place around St Davids.

TfW is now working with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO) and the Community Transport Association (CTA) Wales to trial enhancements to existing community transport services. The service will be integrated with scheduled bus and rail services and is set to be introduced later this year'.

Welsh Government (WG) Transport Minister Ken Skates said: 'The pilot which will take place around St Davids will provide an efficient and quality service. It will respond to pre-booked requests from passengers, making journeys based on demand rather than operating on a fixed route and schedule.

By understanding where people want to travel and when, vehicles can be routed flexibly and get to those who need it. This means people will be able to travel by public transport much more easily, whether it's for work, to access services or simply to enjoy a day out'.

Darren Thomas, PCC Head of Infrastructure, said: 'We are delighted that Welsh Government has chosen Pembrokeshire as a location for an exciting pilot project. The Bwcabus service has been operating successfully in Pembrokeshire since February 2017 and a further Demand Responsive Transport initiative within the County is much welcomed. Pembrokeshire has a very good Community Transport network and this pilot will further develop the links between public transport and community transport.'

Further information on the pilot project will be made once arrangements have been finalised.

## Cycling

*'Close Pass' aims to improve road safety in Pembrokeshire*

A 17<sup>th</sup> July *Western Telegraph* report about the new campaign noted that:

- 'Close Pass' aims to remind motorists to give a 1.5m safe passing distance when overtaking cyclists.
- More than 100 signs highlighting the safe passing distance have been put up on roads around the county.
- The hi-visibility signs target popular cycling routes including Ironman, the Tour of Pembrokeshire, Wales Long Course and the National Cycle Network.

Cllr Phil Baker, Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure said: 'Research has shown that a third of all confrontational incidents which take place between drivers and cyclists are related to close passes. This initiative aims not only to improve safety but also the relationships between all road users.'

The Close Pass campaign has been launched by the road safety team at Pembrokeshire County Council along with Sarah Hitchen, whose husband Tenby Aces cyclist Jason Hitchen, was seriously injured while cycling on the A4139 near Manorbier in August 2017.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Sites in Pembrokeshire

Also on 17<sup>th</sup> July *The Western Telegraph* reported that 'FAST' electric vehicle charging-points are now operating in Pembrokeshire. The charge-points have been provided by Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) at its pay and display car parks.

### *Type of charging*

All PCC public electric vehicle charging is provided by Type 2 sockets with the charging cable provided by the user. Type 2 is the European standard IEC 62196 commonly referred to as Menekes. The 'fast' chargeposts operate dynamic load management and they are capable of charging an electric vehicle within 3 to 4 hours dependent on the type and number of vehicles plugged in.

### *How to use the charging station*

To create an account for use of the council EV chargeposts and to start a charge and for details go to: [www.dragoncharging.co.uk](http://www.dragoncharging.co.uk). Charging is payable. Payment can be made via a smart phone using the web app or an RFID card can be purchased.

For the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the charges are: Connection fee: £0.85 (one off payment at each connection). Cost per kWh: £0.25. Chargeposts are all located within existing Pay and Display car parks. The relevant Pay and Display fee will also need to be paid to cover the duration that a vehicle is parked in the car park.

There is maximum stay of 4 hours in the EV charging bays during Pay and Display operating hours. Any profit gained by Pembrokeshire County Council from use of the EV chargepoints will be reinvested into further chargepost provision.

### *Further information*

Visit [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/parking-in-pembrokeshire/electric-car-charging-station-in-haverfordwest](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/parking-in-pembrokeshire/electric-car-charging-station-in-haverfordwest) for charge-point locations. The electric vehicle chargepoints are provided by PCC for the benefit of residents and visitors - to facilitate the transition to a low carbon future. The project was funded by Welsh Government and delivered by Silverstone Green Energy. The Dragon Charging Network is a regional network, also being used by our neighbouring local authorities in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion.

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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