



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – July 2009

Community Transport

Two new summer services run by community transport operators are now up and running. Both services will run until the end of September 2009. These services have been funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales, which is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The Bloomfield Bus is running a Sunday "Exploring the Secret Waterway" service, to villages along the beautiful eastern Cleddau and connecting with the HavenLink water taxi service at Lawrenny Quay. This dial-a-ride service will run from 19 July – 27 September. All seats must be pre-booked by calling 01834 860 293 (bookings can be made up to a week in advance but must be made before 10 am on the day of travel).

The Preseli Hills Bus, operated from 21 July – 30 September by the Preseli Rural Transport Association, will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Previously known as The Walkers Bus, the service will run to a timetable, and does not need to be pre-booked. It will leave Crymych at 10 am, enabling holiday makers or locals to get to it from Cardigan on the 430 Richards Brothers bus. The service offers a trip into the hills and will pass through the stunning scenery around Mynachlogddu and Rosebush and then onwards to the top of the ridge at Bwlch Gwynt and the start of the Golden Road walk. This service is ideal for walkers letting them do a linear walk back to their vehicle or the bus stop, but also means passengers can stop for lunch in Rosebush or Crymych.

The Preseli Hills bus also goes to Llys y Fran and Maenclochog on request. Passengers need to pre-book the day before travelling on 0800 783 1584. Llys-y-Fran has a circular walk, but also offers fishing, beautiful scenery, a café for lunch and a small shop.

The Preseli Hills bus is believed to be the first regular bus service within Wales to accept Euros. Day-trippers from Ireland can therefore use the bus without the added hassle of changing their cash and 'Kids Go Free'.

Further information can be found on www.greendragonbus.co.uk.

Walking and Cycling

A new guide from Pembrokeshire County Council - GO TRAFFIC FREE! - has just arrived from the printers and is ready for distribution. It shows all the traffic free routes in the county, together with the quiet lanes that connect them, and most of the routes go to and from a destination where there is a café, toilets and other facilities. The guide is designed for all kinds of users, especially residents, and the aim is to encourage people to use the paths for commuting and leisure - and hopefully to improve everyone's fitness along the way. Copies will be distributed around the county, but anyone in a hurry can get one by emailing Paul Smith, the Council's Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding Officer, at trafficfree@pembrokeshire.gov.uk or calling 01437 775435.

South West Wales Community Rail Partnership

Alex Owen, the Partnership's New Community Rail Officer, has now commenced work. She has already held meetings with the other Welsh Community Rail Officers, representatives of the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association, the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, Passenger Focus, local authorities and Arriva Trains Wales. She reports that the partnership is about to undergo a facelift, with a new name and logo. There will also be a new website very shortly.

Assembly Enterprise & Learning Committee

The committee is one of the Scrutiny Committees of the National Assembly for Wales. Its main function is to hold the Welsh Assembly Government to account by examining the expenditure, administration and policy of the government and associated public bodies in the areas of (1) Economic Development and Regeneration, (2) Social Enterprise, (3) Transport and (4) Lifelong Learning.

The Committee's proposed Legislative Competence Order on Highways and Transport, which was titled the Traffic Free Routes LCO in its drafting stage, was debated in Plenary on 15th July. The Assembly agreed a motion that there should not be detailed consideration of the LCO in an Assembly Legislation Committee because it has already been scrutinised and consulted on by the Enterprise and Learning Committee. Therefore the Committee can proceed with laying a draft LCO to be fully debated in Plenary late in the year. The transcript of that debate can be accessed on the following link:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=137764&ds=7/2009>.

From 21st October the Committee will hold 4 meetings looking into Future Railway Infrastructure, including scrutiny of the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transportation and key stakeholders. The Committee's report is expected towards the end of the autumn term.

In 2010 the Committee has agreed to review the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Welsh Assembly Government's *Walking and Cycling Strategy*.

To find out more about the work and operations of the committee contact the Committee Clerking Team at Enterprise.learning.comm@Wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Welsh Assembly Government – National Transport Plan Consultation

The National Transport Plan is now out for consultation. The plan which covers the next 5 years is based on three key principles: (1) To meet the demand for enhanced mobility to enable economic growth and to improve quality of life for the people of Wales, (2) To put transport onto a more sustainable and less carbon-intensive path, and (3) To use transport funding more effectively in light of increasing pressures on public finances. The Plan sets out solutions to transport issues along the main movement corridors in Wales (the east/west corridors in north, mid and south Wales and the north/south corridor). These corridors cover all modes of transport. The National Transport Plan also contains solutions that are relevant to Wales as a whole, for example improving access to key sites, settlements and services.

The deadline for consultation responses is Monday, 12th October 2009. Copies of the Plan and the consultation response proforma are available on the Assembly Government website: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/ntp/?lang=en>.

Respondents are asked to state if they are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding for an organisation they should indicate who the organisation represents and how the view of the members was determined.

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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, the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services 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)

For further information, contact the Secretary, 2 Hill Terrace, Fishguard SA65 9LU,
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