



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – September 2011

Buses

Richards Brothers has issued new timetables for the following bus routes:

Route No.	Route
410	Fishguard Town Service - Fishguard Harbour
411	St Davids - Haverfordwest
411	Haverfordwest - St Davids
412	Cardigan - Fishguard - Haverfordwest
412	Haverfordwest - Fishguard - Cardigan
413	Fishguard - St Davids - Fishguard

All the services take effect on 30th September 2011, and the timetables may be downloaded from the Richards Brothers website at: [www.richardsbros.co.uk/Bus Services.htm](http://www.richardsbros.co.uk/Bus%20Services.htm).

Community Transport

Message from the Fishguard Community Minibus

"Millie", Fishguard's current 13 seater accessible minibus, is coming to the end of her useful life. Through a variety of fundraising initiatives Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport (PVT) are working to replace her with a new minibus to serve the Fishguard, Goodwick, Newport, and Letterston area. On 22nd September the community turned out in numbers for a successful fundraising coffee morning at the Royal Oak in Fishguard, demonstrating the breadth of support for the provision of a new vehicle. Along with other contenders, NatWest Community Force now features PVT's fundraising drive on its website, and will award £6,000 to the project voted the most deserving by the public.

Vote "YES!" to fund new wheels for Fishguard

Go to <http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/2439> or ring 0800 2100246.
To vote on line you'll need to register first - with your email address and a password.

Vote now – voting closes on 23rd October.

Bws y Bobol. A Community Minibus Forum for the St Davids Peninsula was held on 20th September at Oriel y Parc, St Davids. Mary Smith, Community Transport Link Worker with the Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO), reported that the grant funded Community Links Project that set up the Bws y Bobol project is coming to an end, and from now on funding will be through PVT. Heidi Gray, the St Davids City Council Clerk, will be handling the bookings and liaising with Ocean Haze where the bus is kept; while PVT will deal with maintenance of the vehicle. This meeting was the first of the users forums that will be held on an annual basis.

The St Davids Mayor, Cllr Chris Taylor, thanked all who are involved with Bws y Bobol, stressing that it was very important to continue the work. The City Council will continue to support the project, for St Davids and for those outside St Davids. During the open forum many useful suggestions were made by members of the community who attended the meeting.

New Fishguard Train Services

Launch of the New Services. Additional rail services to Fishguard were launched by Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Local Government and Communities, at Fishguard Harbour on 12th September 2011. The additional services were also formally welcomed by Mike Bagshaw (Commercial Director - Arriva Trains Wales), Mark Langman (Route Managing Director for Wales - Network Rail), Cllr Jamie Adams (Vice Chair - South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium - SWWITCH), and Hatti Woakes, (Secretary - North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum).

Arriva Trains Wales provided complimentary coffee and tea for guests as they arrived and were then entertained by Goodwick County Councillor Moira Lewis playing the harp. Stena Line arranged for coffee, tea and biscuits to be provided in the Station's café throughout the morning. Following the speeches further entertainment was provided by the Côr Newyddion Da, directed by Marilyn Lewis. The All Points

West Community Rail Partnership's Task and Finish Group (chaired by Community Rail Officer Alex Owen) helped with arrangements for the event, and members distributed specially designed postcards to mark the event and promote the new train services. A full report of the launch can be found on the Forum's website at: www.nptf.co.uk/materials/cat_view/9-documents.html.

Train and Bus Timetables. The new Arriva Trains Wales Timetable 3 for West Wales, Swansea, Maesteg and Gloucester to Cardiff, 12 September to 11 December includes all the Fishguard train services and can be downloaded from the ATW website at: www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/Timetables/. Until Goodwick Station is re-opened, the Richards Brothers 410 service will meet all but the first and last trains at Fishguard Harbour. The new 410 timetable can be downloaded from Richard Brothers' website at: www.richardsbros.co.uk/Bus_Services.htm.

Pembrokeshire Railcard. The new Pembrokeshire Railcard is out and is valid for 12 months from the date of issue. It costs £5 and offers one third off most individual Standard Class rail fares, including Off Peak, across Pembrokeshire and as far as Swansea. Railcard leaflet/application forms are available at Haverfordwest Railway Station and from TICs, as well as by post from the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Secretary (see address below).

Arriva Trains Wales Club 55. This popular promotion is back and will run from the 4th September to 14th December 2011. Travel for those over 55 between any 2 stations on the Arriva Trains Wales network is £18.00 or £16.00 with a Senior or Disabled Railcard. Journeys can be extended into other areas by using the services of other operators on the ATW network. Further information is on the ATW website at: www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/Club55/ or contact Len Reilly, Pricing and Ticketing Manager by email: Len.reilly@arrivatw.co.uk or telephone: 02920 720517.

National Assembly Plenary Debate - Accessibility of Public Transport

On 21st September the Assembly Plenary Session included a debate on a Welsh Conservatives motion on public transport accessibility and an amendment to the motion. The motion, noting that less than half of Wales' railway stations are fully accessible to disabled people, called for the Welsh Government to (a) Make public transport more accessible, through the provision of audio-visual information and the extension of the Companion Bus Pass and (b) Promote staff awareness and training in disabled passenger requirements. The amendment called for the Welsh government to ensure that it fully consults with disabled people and representatives of disability groups in developing any plans for improvements for accessibility to public transport. Points made during the debate included:

- when public bodies look for the most efficient solution, they seem to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach. No two disabled people have exactly the same needs.
- accessibility is an issue for people with unseen disabilities such as mental illness, learning difficulties and autism.
- There is a need to ensure that representatives of people with disabilities are involved in helping plan accessibility measures, as disabled people have often been denied access to poorly designed 'accessible' facilities.
- Access should be an integral design feature of our transport network. Ideally, we should seek greater integration of our transport system.
- If information about accessibility is not already available, accessible services become completely inaccessible.
- With less than half of railway stations fully accessible, buses largely lacking appropriate announcements, travel information often difficult to find in accessible formats and doubts existing over staff understanding, the journey for a disabled passenger often requires rigorous advanced planning.

At the end of the debate, the motion was not agreed and the amendment was agreed.

The full debate can be found in the National Assembly's Record of Proceedings for Plenary Sessions on its website at: www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber-fourth-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=221996&ds=9/2011.

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)

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