



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – June 2016

Buses and Community Transport

Let's Talk Transport Event, 25th May in Crundale. Organised by PLANED (the Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) and Small World Theatre, as well as by PACTO (the Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations), the meeting was opened by Sue Leonard, Chief Officer of the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS). The event included:

- A Small World Theatre dramatic presentation illustrating the difficulties young people may experience when travelling by bus.
- A Young Voices for Choices presentation that looked at transport issues from the perspective of young disabled people.
- Presentations about public and community transport by Owen Roberts (Pembrokeshire County Council Passenger Services Coordinator), Debbie Johnson (PACTO Community Transport Development Officer), and Caroline Wilson (Preseli Rural Transport Association Manager).
- A series of workshops were held after lunch.

PACTO Bus Buddies Project. Emma Lewis has been appointed as Project Coordinator, local volunteers will now be recruited as Bus Buddies, and PACTO has announced that 'the first Bus Buddies are expected to hit the road this autumn'. The project will offer support to people who, due to physical or mobility impairments, mental health difficulties or social issues, need extra help in using local community or public transport services.

Contact Debbie Johnson for details on 01437 776550 (Monday-Wednesday) or 07866 635957 or debbie@pembrokeshirecommunitytransport.org.uk.

Fishguard Harbour Cruise Ships

The Corinthian cruise ship has called at the Harbour four times in June. The London to Dublin cruise includes visits to Portsmouth, the Channel Islands, Dartmouth, the Scilly Isles, Skomer Island, Fishguard, Snowdonia and Anglesey. In Fishguard a visit to The Last Invasion Embroidered Tapestry is among the local trips that are on offer to passengers. Thirteen more ships will be arriving in the next three months.

National Assembly Transport Developments

Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, will be responsible for transport.

The Welsh Government (WG) website (<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetm/?lang=en>) reveals that his responsibilities include:

- Development of an integrated transport system in Wales.
- Road safety including provision of Safer Routes to Schools, transport for children and young people and regulation of pedestrian crossings and on-street parking.
- Road transport, including construction, improvement and maintenance of the motorway and trunk road network in Wales, except those parts of the Second Severn Crossing and the approaches thereto which are situated in Wales (not devolved) (n.b. roads other than trunk roads are the responsibility of local authorities).
- Delivery of passenger rail services through the Wales and Borders franchise.
- Funding and administration of programmes to local authorities and other bodies designed to deliver a range of transport schemes and services.
- Ports policy.

The Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee will examine legislation and hold the WG to account by scrutinising expenditure, administration and policy matters, encompassing (but not restricted to): Economic Development, Transport, Infrastructure, Employment, Skills and Research and Development (including Technology and Science). The Committee will be chaired by Russell George AM. Visit www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=446 to follow the work of the Committee.

South West Wales Regional Transport Forum

A quarterly meeting of the Forum was held in Port Talbot on 24th June. Updates on active travel (walking and cycling) and bus quality standards were among the matters that were discussed.

The Active Travel Act: 2015/16 Activities. The Act requires that Local Authorities (LAs) map, plan and make continuous improvement to their active travel networks (i.e. those for pedestrians and cyclists). The WG commissioned Sustrans to map existing active travel routes (ERMs) and provide a standardised dataset to the LAs to:

- Validate the data to ensure its accuracy and fill in any missing information;
- Audit the pedestrian and cycling routes to determine their quality and whether they conform to the Active Travel Delivery Guidance standards; and
- Draft the ERMs, prepare the supporting statements to accompany the maps, as well as to outline any routes which do not conform with the Delivery Guidance standards.

Welsh Government has provided feedback on all four Local Authorities submitted quality ERM reports and supporting statements. The maps are now being further developed and refined in consultation with Welsh Government Officers.

The Voluntary Welsh Bus Quality Standard. WG published the Wales Quality Bus Standard at the end of March this year. Information on the WG website notes that the Standard has been developed 'to ensure that the quality of local bus services is consistent and available throughout Wales and to encourage local bus operators to improve the quality of the services they provide to passengers. The WG expects bus companies to achieve the following requirements by March 2017:

- Participate in our Young Persons' Discounted Bus Fare Scheme by offering a third off the price of the ticket for 16, 17 and 18 year olds.
- Operate vehicles that are compliant with the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 and any associated legislation.
- Ensure vehicles have working destination blinds that are clearly visible telling passengers about the destination and key stopping points along the route.
- Clean buses inside and out ready for the first service each day.
- Provide drivers and other on-board employees with a uniform.
- Have a published passenger complaints policy.

Larger bus companies will be expected to operate audio-visual next stop bus announcements on newer buses'.

To download the Standard Visit <http://gov.wales/topics/transport/public/bus-policy/voluntary-welsh-bus-quality-standard/?lang=en>.

The meeting was informed that following representation from the Confederation of Passenger Transport, the bus operators and LAs met with WG officials in May and there appears to be some flexibility around the guidelines. But there is an expectation that the enhanced criteria will start to be introduced with effect from 2107/18.

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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