

North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

October News Briefing, 2019

Buses and Community Transport

Northwest Pembrokeshire Integrated Responsive Transport Pilot

Introduction. A community meeting was held in St Davids on 3rd October to discuss this project - for a new flexible bus services for Northwest Pembrokeshire and the St David's area. The project is one of four trials announced earlier this year by Welsh Government (WG) Transport Minister Ken Skates to look at innovative forms of demand responsive bus travel.

Participants were invited to discuss the aims of the pilot and share ideas about (1) moving the project forward, (2) transport needs in the area, and (3) the best ways to get input from the local community. Following the meeting, a period of public engagement and consultation is planned, with the aim of starting the new service in the new year.

Presentation from Tony Meacham, Transport for Wales (TfW).

1. Transport for Wales and the Welsh Government

TfW is a not-for-profit, customer-focused company, wholly owned by WG, helping to drive a step change in how we understand, plan and invest in transport in Wales. It is a pan-Wales organisation applying local understanding for the benefit of customers, an expert adviser to WG and an advocate for transport-related matters.

TfW's Relationship with the Welsh Government. WG develops policies for transport in Wales. TfW provides technical advice and expertise to help WG to develop policy, as well as an expert delivery organisation for WG. Everything TfW does supports WG policies.

2. Northwest Pembrokeshire Integrated Responsive Transport (IRT) Pilot

Area points relevant to the pilot: Sufficient overall population; Opportunity to link with improved T11 and T5 bus services and build on existing community transport services; Adjacent to Pembrokeshire Bwcabus area; Opportunity to assist communities where bus services have recently been reduced; Active communities, history of supporting community transport services (Bws y Bobol).

Outline of planned service

Vehicle	Area	Days of Operation	Times of Operation
Vehicle 1	Croesgoch to Ysgol Caer Elen, Haverfordwest	Term Time (Mon to Fri)	08:00 – 08:40
Vehicle 1	St David's IRT*	Term Time (Mon to Fri)	09:15 – 15:00
Vehicle 1	Ysgol Caer Elen, Haverfordwest to Croesgoch	Term Time (Mon to Fri)	15:30 – 16:10
Vehicle 1	St David's IRT*	Term Time (Mon to Fri)	16:10 – 19:00
Vehicle 1	St David's IRT*	School Holidays only (Monday to Friday)	08:00 – 19:00
Vehicle 2	St David's IRT*	Monday to Saturday	08:00 – 19:00

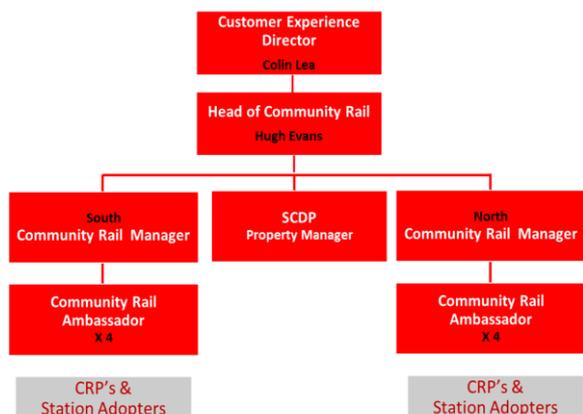
After the presentation, lively discussion sessions identified areas, days and times where there would be demand for these proposed services.

A New Community Rail Partnership for South West Wales

Report received from Hugh Evans, Head of Community Rail - Transport for Wales Rail

'We are very proud of the fact that, within our contract, we have put a great emphasis on how we engage with communities across Wales & Borders. We have ambitious plans that include increasing Community Rail Partnerships, more station adoption and bringing disused space at stations back to life for commercial and community use

As a result, TfW has introduced a new Community Rail function with the new management structure set out below.



As Head of Community Rail, one of my first tasks has been to appoint a Community Rail Manager for South Wales and Borders. I am delighted that Geraint Morgan has taken up that role. Geraint will be appointing a new Community Ambassador in West Wales in the next few months to support him in delivering our plans. I am sure you will see a lot of Geraint over the coming months.

One of Geraint's main task is to set up a new Community Rail Partnership in South West Wales. This will stretch from Swansea to all points west towards, Pembroke Dock, Fishguard and Milford Haven. The aims of the partnership will be to work with communities to make the railway more

accessible for all and to promote what the region has to offer.

This really dictates the make up of the partnership as we would like to see this driven by the communities and the people and businesses who make up the region and not a rail driven partnership.

It is recognised that tourism is a key market for a great number of businesses in Wales, particularly South West Wales. To support the rail offering for tourism, we have recently appointed Rebecca Wilson as our new Partnership Marketing Manager. Rebecca, who is a part of our marketing team, will be working closely with Visit Wales, Community Rail Partnerships and tourism organisations to start working on a coordinated approach to marketing Wales as a place to visit using sustainable transport.

In addition, our Social and Commercial Development Plan (SCDP) is gaining momentum. This plan will outline how we will develop disused space at stations for the benefit of local communities and businesses, bringing the station back to life. Where we do have station buildings, we will be reaching out to the communities and asking what they would like to see at the station. It is the community's station and it should reflect what they would like to showcase for residents and visitors alike.

This is an exciting programme of works and we look forward to working with you all to help deliver plans that will drive benefits for all.

Should you need any further information or have any ideas about Community Rail or the SCDP, please feel free to contact me on hugh.evans@tfwrail.wales.

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
Tel: (01348) 874217. Email: hattiwoakes@gmail.com