



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – February 2014

North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum - 14th Annual General Meeting Llwyngwair Manor, Newport - Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm.

- **Presentation about the new Green Dragon Scooter Scheme** ◀
by Emma Lewis & Caroline Wilson

*The meeting is open to members of the public.
Coffee/tea & refreshments will be provided before the meeting from 7.00pm.*

Community Transport

St Davids Bws y Bobol Dial-a-Ride Service. Patronage on the weekly Friday service, covering the St Davids Peninsula as far out as Trefin and Solva, has grown steadily during 2013, from an average of 80 passenger journeys per month during the period January - March, to an average of 176 passenger journeys per month during the October - December period. The Pembrokeshire Rural Transport Association operates the service.

Pembrokeshire Country Cars Post. The Royal Voluntary Service is now in the process of recruiting a new Service Manager for Pembrokeshire Country Cars. It is a part time position, 15 hours a week, to be worked flexibly. Salary: £8/hour. The closing date for applications is 7 March. More information at: www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/about-us/working-for-us/job/1330-service-manager-part-time.

Cycling - Sustrans Code of Conduct

With the passage of the Active Travel Bill in November 2013, the Sustrans Cycling Code of Conduct on Shared-Use Paths will become even more relevant to cyclists in future, as additional paths are put in place.

Following this code of conduct will ensure that everyone can benefit from shared paths:

- Give way to pedestrians and wheelchair users;
- Take care around horse-riders, leaving them plenty of room, especially when approaching from behind;
- Be courteous and patient with pedestrians and other path users who are moving more slowly than you – shared paths are for sharing, not speeding;
- Cycle at a sensible speed and do not use the paths for recording times with challenge apps or for fitness training;
- Slow down when space is limited or if you cannot see clearly ahead;
- Be particularly careful at junctions, bends, entrances onto the path, or any other 'blind spots' where people (including children) could appear in front of you without warning;
- Keep to your side of any dividing line;
- Carry a bell and use it, or an audible greeting, to avoid surprising people or horses;
- Don't assume people can see or hear you – remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired;
- In dull and dark weather make sure you have lights so you can be seen.

Tips for other path users

- Keep your dog under control;
- Keep to your side of any dividing line.

Journey Alerts

During the recent stormy weather provision of information about public transport disruptions due to flooding and damage caused by the extremely heavy winds became a matter of great concern to travellers to, from and within North Pembrokeshire. The Forum began a daily examination of the journey alerts provided by Traveline Cymru, Richards Bros, Stena Line, Arriva Trains Wales and National Rail Enquiries websites and found that:

- Transport providers made valiant efforts to deal with problems and to provide information as quickly as possible about delays, cancellations and replacement services.
- While passengers were provided with a great deal of information, it was often necessary to check a number of sources of information in order to obtain a complete picture about the situation.

National Assembly Transport Considerations, 19th February 2014

Enterprise and Business Committee. In the morning Edwina Hart AM (Minister for Economy, Science and Transport), Rob Hunter (WG Director, Finance & Performance) and James Price (WG Director, Economy, Science and Transport) presented a Six-monthly Update and Budget Outturn 2012-13 to the Committee.

Plenary. In the afternoon, William Graham, Chairman of the Enterprise and Business Committee, introduced the debate by Members on the Committee's report on The Future of the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise. After Edwina Hart AM (Minister for Economy, Science and Transport) stated that she was pleased to be able to accept, or accept in principle, all the report's recommendations in her formal response, she responded to points that had been raised by Members. The motion to note the report was then unanimously agreed.

The depth and breadth of the discussions in both meetings, which were positive, constructive and encouraging, is far too great to summarise adequately in this Briefing. See full reports for both:

(1) The Enterprise & Business Committee meeting - Six-monthly Update & Budget Outturn 2012-13: <http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s24539/19%20February%202014%20-%20Draft.html?CT=2#diwedd>, and

(2) The Plenary discussion on the Future of the Wales & Borders Rail Franchise Report: http://www.assemblywales.org/docs/rop_xml/140219_plenary_bilingual.xml#132099.

Trains - Charters

Northern Belle Excursion to Fishguard Harbour, 28th February. The Northern Belle train entered service in 2000 and recreates the elegance and comfort of train travel at its finest. Combining classic craftsmanship and contemporary engineering, it is a reflection of the magnificent 'Belle' trains of the 1930s and the Pullman carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient Express. Arriving from Cardiff at mid-day, passengers were offered the opportunity of spending the afternoon in Fishguard or joining a coach transfer for a visit to St Davids.

Walking

New Walking Directory. *The Western Telegraph* reported on 12th February that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority 'Walkability Project' will be compiling an online directory of walks, which will be available via the National Park website and other partner organisations. Project co-ordinator Paul Casson said 'It is not always easy for interested parties to find out information about walking opportunities or walking groups, and what they have to offer'. The project would like to hear from those who are involved with a group or organisation that leads or organises walks, whether informally, as part of a club, as a business, or socially, have useful walking resources or those who know of a group that does. To have your details included email paulc@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk.

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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 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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