



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – April 2009

Buses

Bus-Rail Connections. The Forum has recently received complaints about some poor bus-rail connections between North Pembrokeshire and Haverfordwest Railway Station. The early morning 411 and 412 bus-rail connections are particularly poor, with 45 minute and 49 minute waits respectively for the 09.25 train.

After that there is a contrast between the provision of service offered on the two routes. Good connections are provided by 412 buses throughout the rest of the day, as the buses arrive between 6 –17 minutes before train departures. In contrast, between 11.00 and 17.00 411 buses arrive only 5 minutes before the train departs. As trains do not wait for delayed buses, to be certain that they are not going to miss their train, rail passengers travelling on 411 buses take earlier buses and wait between 40 – 50 minutes for their trains. The Forum has been informed that Pembrokeshire County Council is aware of these problems and will be looking out for future opportunities to make improvements.

Local Bus Services. Judi Hartland, Bus Users UK Cymru's local representative, has reported that a certain amount of confusion arose over the Easter Holiday weekend as Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire didn't provide the same level of bus services. Moreover, it was unfortunate that the coastal buses remained on the winter timetable despite the influx of visitors. On a positive note, Richard Brothers' new timetables and holiday services were well publicised at stops with shelters.

Pembrokeshire County Council transport officers have reported that full Monday - Saturday services now run on bank holiday Mondays on tendered routes. There is a strong case to start the summer coastal buses earlier, and this is being taken on board. The authority notes that this year's Local Transport Services Grant is unchanged from last year, and current services will not be adversely affected.

Concessionary Fares. WAG has set up a Bus Funding Group to look at how concessionary fares are funded. The Group has now held 2 meetings and has hired consultants to review the formula for reimbursement to operators.

Community Transport

Bws y Bobl Services. The Committee was informed that during the month of March 166 passenger journeys were made by the 14 groups that used the minibus. Four new drivers have completed MiDAS training, and there have been 2 new affiliations: the Red Cross and the British Women's legion. A minibus orientation was provided for drivers who had been wary of using the lift.

Ferries

Pembrokeshire Greenways Officer Rhian Higgins reports that funding is in place for next summer's Haven Link ferry services. As last year, services will run on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 22nd May. Increased frequency will be provided, as two boats will

operate the service this year. Leaflets will be available in all TICs and on the Greenways, National Park and Pembrokeshire County Council websites at www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk, www.pcnpa.org.uk, and www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk respectively.

Trains – Station Parking

The report in last month's News Briefing that free parking at Haverfordwest station is unusual was questioned by one of our readers. A subsequent check of the guides that have been produced by the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association revealed that of the 10 Pembrokeshire stations that have car parks only two (Tenby and Fishguard) charge for parking. Stations at Clarbeston Road, Kilgetty, Lamphey, Manorbier and Kilgetty do not have car parks.

Walking and Cycling

Proposed Local Competence Order on Traffic Free Routes. On 26th March the National Assembly's Enterprise and Learning Committee scrutinised Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones on the Welsh Assembly Government's Walking and Cycling Action Plan. The Committee also scrutinised Jane Davidson, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, on the Sustainable Travel Towns Initiative, before deciding whether the committee should move forward to lay the proposed Order before the Assembly. The committee's spring programme now notes that in the summer term the committee will introduce its proposed Local Competence order on traffic free routes.

The Walking and Cycling Action Plan may be found at <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/090223walkingactionplanen.pdf>, and information about the Sustainable Travel Towns Initiative can be found at http://wales.gov.uk/location/south_east_wales/latestnews/090311transport/?lang=en.

The full transcript of the Committee's ministerial scrutiny can be found at www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=124049&ds=3/2009.

SWWITCH – Regional Transport Plan

Ceri Rees, Pembrokeshire County Council's Transport Strategy Officer, reports that work on the SWWITCH Regional Transport Plan is progressing well. The final draft will be presented to the SWWITCH Joint Committee for adoption on 5th June. It will then go to the Cabinets of the four SWWITCH local authorities for adoption before submission to the Welsh Assembly Government.

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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,
Tel: (01348) 874217. E-mail: info@nptf.co.uk. Website: www.nptf.co.uk.