



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2000 - 2001

The launch of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum in March 2000 took place at a time when it was clear that great changes were afoot with regard to public transport in Wales.

The establishment of the National Assembly for Wales has seen the introduction of new developments in transport policy, particularly with regard to integration, sustainability, social inclusion and rural development. These policies have already started to take shape in the Local Transport Plans produced by local authorities throughout Wales. The announcement later in the year of the proposed Wales and Borders rail franchise, with its emphasis on the provision of integrated rail – bus links, has added to the feeling that the winds of change are indeed blowing in the land.

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum welcomes and supports the policies for integrated transport that have been laid down by the National Assembly. During the past year the Forum has regularly monitored the Assembly website in order to keep up to date on policy developments. The Forum has also endeavoured to keep up to date with transport developments at the local level by checking the agendas of the Highways and Transportation Committee and attending meetings of the committee. We have also organised an ongoing series of meetings with town and community councils and other local groups in order to raise public awareness of the implications of the new transport policies, both at a national and a local level.

Another important focus of activity has been the collection of transport data. A rail passenger survey has been conducted, and, a great deal of information about bus and community transport requirements is being collected through the meetings with the local groups mentioned above.

The results of the rail survey have formed the basis of the Forum's campaign for major improvements to rail services to Fishguard, as part of the Wales and Borders rail franchise replacement process. The Forum has organised meetings at Fishguard Harbour to discuss our aspirations for improved rail services with all of the bidders for the new franchise. The meetings have been attended by representatives of the Forum, Stena Line and Richards Bros.

Liaising with those who share our aims and objectives has been one of the Forum's key priorities. During the year the Forum has participated in a number of County Council consultations, including those connected with the Draft Local Transport Plan and the Goodwick Conservation Area Management Plan. We have also provided responses to several consultation exercises that have been conducted by the Rail Passengers Council and the Rail Passengers Committee for Wales.

Representatives of the Forum have attended meetings of bodies such as the West Wales Rail Forum, the Rail Passengers Committee for Wales, and the Wales Rural Forum. Regular exchange of information takes place between the Forum and other transport groups such as the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association, the Railway Development Society, the National Federation of Bus Users and most recently the Community Transport Association. The Forum is a member of the Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services.

We have been gratified by the continued interest and support received from elected representatives at all levels of government, from transport groups and operators, as well as from business, tourism and other groups. We look forward to developing these relationships in future.

The Forum has been one of the first community groups in Pembrokeshire to receive financial assistance from the new Environmental Development Fund, a scheme created by the National Assembly, administered locally by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. We wish to express our sincere gratitude for this support.

Finally, I wish to report that the Executive Committee has met 8 times during the year. I would like to thank the committee for its continued enthusiasm and dedication in working to develop the Forum's programme of activities.

Cllr Byron James
Chairman

28 March 2001