



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – July 2015

Buses

New Young Persons Discounted Travel Scheme

A new Welsh Young Persons Discounted Travel Scheme offers Wales' 16-18 year olds the opportunity to save a third off the price of an adult bus fare on all of their bus journeys. Previously the scheme, funded by the Welsh Government and developed in partnership with the bus industry and local authorities, was designed to help young people travel to and from training and employment more cheaply. The new scheme was launched by First Minister, Carwyn Jones, in Corwen, North Wales on 22nd July 2015. The Welsh Government has allocated £5million to the introduction of the scheme in 2015-16, and a further £9.75million in 2016-17. Young persons can register their interest for the new Scheme Card via Gov.wales/mytravelpass or Llyw.cymru/fyngherdynteithio. This will enable them to receive discounted fares on all local buses and TrawsCymru journeys throughout Wales from 1st September this year.

Upgraded T5 TrawsCymru Service

Five new more fuel-efficient and environmentally-friendly Optare MetroCity single deck buses now serve passengers along the T5 route which connects Aberystwyth with Haverfordwest, via Cardigan and Fishguard. Coach style interiors, next stop audio announcements and free WiFi for passengers are just some of the benefits available on a new fleet of buses launched by the Economy and Transport Minister, Edwina Hart AM, in Gwbert, on 3rd July. TrawsCymru is the Welsh Government funded long distance bus network for Wales. The new buses are part of improved services being rolled out across the TrawsCymru network and this latest fleet takes the current total of new vehicles introduced across Wales to 15.

Community Transport

Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO)

PACTO's Annual General Meeting was held at the Bloomfield Community Centre in Narberth on 13th July and included a presentation by Debbie Johnson (Community Transport Development Manager) about the 2015 Community Transport Survey. Over 300 responses were received from car scheme, dial-a-ride, Town Rider and Group community transport passengers. Key survey findings:

- 65% of respondents were aged 80 or older. Very few were younger than 45.
- 85% had some mobility needs.
- A third valued the extra service provided compared with public transport. ('Public transport can't get me to where I want to go').
- Many respondents identified important social benefits from using the services. ('I don't see anybody - it's great to be in touch meeting people on the bus'.)
- CT services were seen as a safe transport option, especially by those with extra mobility needs.
- Many passengers in rural areas simply have no other option. ('I don't drive, no buses near us & can't afford a taxi', 'It's 10 miles to Narberth and you can't get any thing in this village').
- Most group users needed accessible features. It's critical to get these features right when purchasing a bus and to keep them in good order as buses get older.
- Most people used CT services for shopping, followed by health appointments and social events.

- 77% travelled at least weekly. 64% didn't pay a fare. (Dial-a-Ride passengers travel free with their bus pass. Most of those who did pay a fare considered the charge to be reasonable).

Ports

National Assembly Enterprise & Business Committee Inquiry into the Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales

The meeting was held in Bangor University, Bangor on 9th July. Port witnesses included: Captain Ian Davies (Route Manager for Stena Line, Irish Sea South), Alec Don (Chief Executive, Milford Haven Port), Jim O'Toole (Managing Director, Port of Mostyn) and Paddy Walsh (UK Ports Manager, Irish Ferries). Topics covered during the in-depth discussions included:

- How the devolution of ports policy could support economic development and transport integration. Pressures that could hamper traffic flow, potential risks coming from devolution.
- Passenger and freight information in relation to future investment in road infrastructure.
- Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) corridors.
- Tourism.
- Hinterland connectivity - road and rail network links to ports.
- Does the current Welsh Government policy address the needs of ports?
- Diversification from current specialisms into other sectors, such as cruises.

Visit www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s42642/9%20July%202015.pdf for a full report of the meeting.

Rail Stations

Improvements to Fishguard and Goodwick Rail Station

Following receipt of Welsh Government grant funding for improvements to the station, survey and design work has been undertaken by the Pembrokeshire County Council Construction Commissioning Section. A planning application has now been submitted for the following:

- Extension of the car park to provide an additional 18 spaces.
- An additional bike shelter.
- A link canopy to join the station building to the brick building.
- Mains water and sewer connections.
- Repair to the broken window, external decoration and electric meter and mains connection to the consumer unit to station building.
- Scrub clearance and landscaping to main entrance.
- Signage to direct passengers to the bus stops.
- An external 'access to all' toilet as an extension to the station building.

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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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