



North Pembrokehire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – September 2015

Fishguard and Goodwick Rail Station Improvements Update

Break in damage to the station building has been made good, the additional planned cycle shelter is being installed, specification detail of the toilet provision is being considered, and subject to this the contract for the car park extension will be let in the autumn. The Station Building is being marketed at www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=1626,1937,1940&parent_directory_id=646.

National Assembly Enterprise & Business Committee

A. Bus and Community Transport Inquiry

The Committee has extended the deadline for submission of responses to its questionnaire to the end of October. Visit <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=188> to download the form.

B. Update Session with the Department for Transport (DfT)

On 17th September members questioned Stephen Fidler - DfT Deputy Director, Buses and Taxis Division and Colin Poole - DfT Regional Rail Strategy Manager about powers over bus and rail services in the the forthcoming devolution settlement for Wales (the Wales Bill). Matters discussed included:

1. Buses

Existing powers and agreed future powers

- Powers to legislate in relation to franchising powers, quality contract powers and quality partnerships are already devolved to the National Assembly (NA).
- Powers in relation to bus registration are intended to be included in the Wales Bill.
- There is a lot of flexibility available to the NA and the WG with regarding to making changes to increase integration.
- The ability to agree or approve the quality contract scheme remains with Welsh Ministers.

Matters yet to be resolved

- Planned quality contract changes for England that may or may not be relevant in the Welsh context.
- Options for places that don't want to go to contracts and franchising might involve further changes and amendments to quality partnerships.
- Issues around changes designed to allow greater innovation.

2. Trains - The next Wales and Borders Franchise

Existing powers and agreed future powers

- Executive franchising functions will be devolved in time for the WG to have sole lead on the procurement of the next franchise by January 2017 - a couple of months before the WG might expect to launch any competition for a new franchise.
- Welsh Ministers will be able to specify services that are entirely within Wales and also cross-border services, provided that they don't primarily serve English markets, subject to consultation with the Secretary of State.

Matters yet to be resolved

- The definitions of 'serving English markets' and 'serving Welsh markets', when many services serve both.
- Current services and stations that should be remapped and the franchises managed by the Secretary of State they would be remapped to.
- The UK Government has agreed to ensure that the Welsh Government is no better or no worse off as a result of any remapping.
- Sorting out the complexities involved in working out how to leave the WG 'no better and no worse off' as a result of remapping.

Visit www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s44062/17%20September%202015.pdf for the full report.

Regional Transport Forum (RTF) for South West Wales

A quarterly meeting of the RTF was held in Port Talbot on 18th September. From the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum's perspective, key matters/points raised during the discussions included:

1. *Update on Active Travel Act Preparations:* Concerns remain about the lack of consistency across Wales in terms of the approach to LA responsibilities at the Existing Route Map stage.
2. *The Swansea Strategic Transport Development Model:* to help look at the impacts of the proposed growth in population and housing and to support the Local Development Plan. It also helps to highlight areas where transport interventions may be necessary and to help build business cases for transport investment.
3. *The Enterprise & Business Committee Bus/Community Transport Inquiry:* Bus Users Cymru and the Community Transport Association (CTA) Wales will both give evidence in November.
4. *The Swansea Bay City Region:* The RTF is keen to engage with and provide support on connectivity issues to the City Region Board (CRB). Advice was that this should come via each LA Leader as all 4 leaders sit on the Board. It was suggested that following each Forum meeting key messages could be shared with Leaders for them to raise at CRB meetings.

It was confirmed the NPTF had taken direct action in terms of contact with the CRB and now includes all Board Members on the Forum's newsletter circulation list. It was agreed that RTF Members would ask their Leaders to raise a list of key messages at the CRB, and a letter would be drafted for all Board Members which provides a short overview to the transport activities for direct circulation to Board Members

5. Updates from Partners included:

- Arriva Trains Wales are moving towards mobile ticketing from October which should provide real benefits to users who can make advanced purchases from Smart Phones.
- CTA has been working with Bus Users Cymru on a "tool kit" around the process of making sure customers are aware of and understand changes to bus services. CTA is developing more training for CT operators at a low cost, to be available in January 2016.
- First Great Western would be moving towards their new Brand of GWR from 20/9. The review into electrification is due imminently and this is of critical importance.
- Sustrans are introducing a phone App – called Celtic Tales. This will be a free App which allows users to tour the National Cycle Network on a history or mystery trail. 20 year celebrations for the Celtic Trail took place in Swansea in July.
- NPTF expressed the delight of the Forum that improvement work was to take place at Goodwick Railway station in 2015/16. This was expected to increase usage even more at the station.

Welsh Government - Speed Limits for Schools

On 10th September Transport Minister Edwina Hart announced a £4.5m three-year programme to improve safety at more than 40 schools on trunk roads throughout Wales. Part-time 20mph speed limits are to be introduced in North Pembrokeshire for: Holy Name Catholic Primary School, Ysgol Gynradd Eglwysrwrw, and Ysgol Bro Gwaun. Following a Welsh Government review of safety on walking and cycling routes to schools on Wales' trunk road network, 56 schools were identified as having potential for road safety improvements. Fishguard Primary School will be provided with dropped kerbs and waiting restrictions and will also be covered by a full time 20mph speed limit in Fishguard.

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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)

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