



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – October 2012

### *Community Transport*

Clydau Connections Project Car Club. Establishing an accessible car club is one of the project's main objectives. The club will provide an affordable yet viable alternative transport option for private car users, and will also be accessed as an additional resource by local CT scheme volunteers where demand for transport in smaller accessible vehicles is not currently being met. The club's two vehicles have been purchased, and preparations are being made for the club's launch. The vehicles include:

- A *Peugeot Expert Independence* that carries 7 people including the driver plus a wheelchair. The vehicle has a ramp for the wheelchair to gain access, with a winch and all tie downs. Costs (including fuel and insurance): £15 a day plus 50p a mile.
- A *Kia Picanto* 5 seater hatchback. Costs (again including fuel and insurance): £8 a day and 35p a mile.

*Hire conditions.* Anyone over 25 and under 70 with 6 points or fewer on their license can drive these vehicles. The person hiring the vehicle must become a member of the Preseli Rural Transport Association (PRTA). Membership costs £10 per household per year for hire by 2 or more persons. Membership for 1 person households is £5.00 a year. Driver familiarisation will take place before the vehicle goes out. Cars can be delivered to the users address by arrangement. Bookings will be taken by demand management centre staff.

Bws y Bobol. Mary Smith, Rural Transport Project Officer (Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations - PACTO) is working on a new project which aims to improve transport links in North Pembrokeshire. Part of the project includes looking at starting a Town Rider type service for St Davids. She reports that there is considerable demand from the community in the St Davids area for a new shoppers' service. Bws y Bobol supporters and other interested parties are invited to a meeting at 10.30, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, to look into the proposal. The meeting will be held in the Ebenezer Chapel in St Davids.

### *Cycling on the Cardi Bach*

We hope that the photograph of Cardi Bach cyclists on the Briefing's covering message will arouse readers' interests in a visit to this cycle track. This is a 6 mile return track that follows the disused Cardi Bach railway line through the Teifi Marsh Nature Reserve, said to be one of the finest nature reserves in Wales. Cyclists should bring their binoculars, as bikes can be parked beside track side hides where they can pause to view the wide variety of birds that live at or visit the reserve. Download Sustrans leaflet, [www.sustrans.org.uk/assets/files/leaflets/cardigan\\_cycleleaflet.pdf](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/assets/files/leaflets/cardigan_cycleleaflet.pdf) for all the information needed to visit and enjoy the track.

### *Trains*

Requests for a ticket machine at Fishguard and Goodwick Station. The Forum Secretary has passed on to Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) the requests for a ticket machine at Fishguard & Goodwick station that the Forum continues to receive. ATW have replied that they very much doubt that they would provide a ticket machine at the station at present as they usually only provide them at higher footfall stations. The costs of providing them are very high but, if the footfall grows to a certain extent, it is a possibility. They review the provision of this equipment on a regular basis.

Adoption of Fishguard and Goodwick Station. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October POINT, Fishguard and Goodwick Young Person's Trust, signed a station adoption agreement for the new rail station with Arriva Trains Wales. A subsequent *County Echo* report noted that Arriva's 'Adopt a Station' scheme helps develop links with local communities by encouraging feedback in regular reports to the station manager on issues that may require attention by the station maintenance team. Geraint Morgan, Arriva's Community Affairs Manager, who came down to sign the agreement stated that 'with the support of POINT, acting as an extra pair of eyes and ears for us, we can assure that the station meets the high standards expected by regular passengers and visitors to the area'.

POINT General Manager Sue Mackie signed the agreement in behalf of the Trust, subsequently noting that:

- It is a great opportunity for the young people of Point to provide a service to the rest of the community.
- It will help us to promote more sustainable travel within the youth club and explore more options for using the train.
- We will help to promote the use of the train within the community through leaflets and flyers.
- It will act as an ongoing project which can be used to promote the role of young people within their community.
- When we have managed to negotiate an agreement with the Local Authority who own the car park we can work to create a space which the local communities can be proud of as the gateway to the area.

Irish Rail's Dublin - Rosslare Timetable Consultation. Stena Line and the Forum have provided responses to this consultation. Ian Davies, Stena Line's Southern Corridor Route Director, requested a reconsideration of the current timetable and the consideration of an integrated approach with ferry arrival and train departures, as there is a need to encourage rail and sail passengers.

The Forum supported Stena's response and pointed out that the current timetable does not offer opportunities for rail and sail passengers between Ireland, Wales, the United Kingdom and beyond to make full use of current ferry services between Rosslare Europort and Fishguard - for the following reasons:

- There are no train connections for any of the day ferry passengers departing from or arriving at Rosslare Europort at 09.00 and 18.00 respectively. Nor is there a train connection with the 21.00 ferry departure on Saturday.
- The only good connections are for all but one of the night ferry services: between the 06.15 ferry arrival at Rosslare Europort and the 07.20 train (Mon to Sat) and the 19.25 train - 21.00 ferry departure (Mon to Fri).

It is therefore extremely disappointing that rail and sail passengers will continue to be forced to travel at the most unsociable times - on the night ferry - because connections with the day ferries are in effect non-existent.

### *New Appointments*

Owen Roberts has taken up the post of Sustainable Transport Coordinator with the Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership.

Jacqui Banks has been appointed Clydau Project Worker. Her role will be to work with the local community to promote transport services in the area, to help develop the travel information packs, and recruit community travel champions.

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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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