



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – January 2012

WiFi Onboard Richards Brothers 412 Service

Rhian Higgins, Pembrokeshire Greenways Officer, reports 'As part of Welsh Government's Regional Bus Corridor project we have launched a pilot WiFi facility onboard the 412 service which operates between Haverfordwest and Cardigan in conjunction with Richards Bros.

To date the WiFi technology has been fitted to 5 vehicles, which is free to use with a download limit of 75gbs. Passenger feedback to date has been very encouraging with over 400 users accessing the service since the service was launched on the 3rd of January 2012.

One business commuter said – *"WiFi onboard allowed me to check my e-mails on the way to the office and made the journey far more enjoyable and to some extent quicker."*

Therefore whether you want to surf the net, download, shop or keep in touch with friends and family WiFi onboard allows you to do it all on the way to your destination'.

Concessionary Fares Petition

The following National Assembly e-Petition, submitted by Community Transport Association (CTA) Cymru, calls for the continuation of Concessionary Fares on Community Transport. This applies to the Pembrokeshire Town Rider services.

e-Petition: Continuation of Concessionary Fares on Community Transport

We ask that the Welsh Government takes account of the recommendations in the externally commissioned evaluation of the Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative (CTCFI) and that the scheme is rolled out to community transport schemes across Wales on a separate fares basis, to ensure equality for our most vulnerable citizens - those elderly and disabled people who are unable to use their bus pass on conventional public transport.

The petition is open until midday on 9th March 2012

Additional information:

- CTCFI will have undertaken c.1.3m vital journeys by March 2012, taking elderly and disabled people to services which they would not otherwise have been able to access.
- Evidence demonstrates clearly the beneficial impact of the scheme on service users lives, which was set up to ensure equality of access to all.
- Since Wales population is ageing, and rates of disability are slightly higher, the need for this service will only grow, with nearly 18,000 registered users of the service already.
- Around £3.9m is needed in 2012-13 to bring CTCFI in as part of the all-Wales CF scheme on a separate fares basis.
- This would include transition funding to some of the 15 original schemes who could well be facing closure at the end of March, leading to some job losses and loss of valuable volunteer commitment.
- Cutting CTCFI will not solve the issue of equality, which the Welsh Government has a statutory duty to promote, and will have a disproportionate effect on our most vulnerable citizens.

1. To sign the petition online click on the following link:

https://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions/epetition-list-of-signatories.htm?pet_id=667&showfrm=0.

2. Letters of support (addressed to The Petitions Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA) should contain the petition wording, along with the sender's full name and address, including the postal address.

Fishguard Town Rider Sounding Board Meeting

A meeting to discuss concerns about the future of the Town Rider service was held in Llain Las Sheltered Accommodation in Fishguard on 31st January. The meeting was attended by over 60 individuals, including Town Rider users, the Fishguard and Goodwick Mayor and Deputy Mayor, local county and town councillors, and other members of the community.

There was complete agreement that the Town Rider service, aimed at providing transport for bus pass holders who are physically unable to use their passes on conventional public transport, had proved beyond doubt that it is an effective and valid solution to this extremely urgent problem. Both users and non users of the service put forward forceful arguments in favour of retaining this vital life-line which provides welcome independence, equality of access and a greatly enhanced quality of life to such vulnerable members of the community.

Train Promotions

1. Arriva Trains Wales' Club 55 is back, running between 8th January to 28th March 2012, at £19 return. Tickets available: (1) Online (no booking fees, no credit card or debit card fees and no delivery fees - except next day delivery) at www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/Club55/; (2) at any station booking office; (3) by calling 0844 3751 546 (between 8am and 8pm Monday-Saturday or 9am and 5pm Sundays; and (4) on an Arriva Trains Wales train (when boarding at a station where no booking facilities are available). Tickets are available for travel between any two stations on the Arriva Trains Wales network.

Add-on Fares: To travel beyond the Arriva Trains Wales network, an 'Add-On' fare may be purchased for selected routes, starting from £20 return. Travel anytime at the weekend and on any train Monday to Friday apart from those arriving into Cardiff Central, Birmingham, Manchester or Liverpool stations before 9.30am and 10.00am for London Marylebone. Evening travel restrictions apply to departures from London Marylebone from 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

2. New ATOC promotion: 20% off the 1-year Family & Friends Railcard when purchased through the Family & Friends website. The promotional price will be £22.40, instead of the usual price of £28. This railcard saves 1/3 off adult and 60% off child fares (5 to 15) across Britain for a year. The promotion will run from 30th January until 29th February 2012. More details at: www.familyandfriends-railcard.co.uk/.

Goodwick Station

Following last month's improvements to the track, work has now commenced on improving the bus stops near the entrance to the station gate. In addition, work has just begun within the station yard.

Train Services

On the whole there are extremely favourable comments about the new Fishguard train services, which are noteworthy for their punctuality and the friendly and helpful onboard staff. Although bus connections are working well, regrettably there were problems due to the lack of bus services on the extended Christmas holidays.

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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