



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – March 2012

### Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative Petition

*The County Echo* has reported (30<sup>th</sup> March 2012) that a 6,000 signature petition calling for a re-think of plans to stop funding the Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative was handed in to the Assembly's Petitions Committee at the Senedd on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The Initiative includes money to keep the Fishguard Town Rider and its sister services in Pembrokeshire up and running.

The petition was handed in by Debbie Johnson of the Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO). She noted that 'The Welsh Government is rightly proud of its All Wales Concessionary Travel Scheme, which gives older and disabled people free bus travel throughout Wales'. She pointed out that, because of their limited mobility, the most elderly and severely disabled members of the community are unable to benefit from their bus passes because they can't get to or from a bus stop or on or off a bus.

The report adds that services have been given a temporary reprieve as the Welsh Government has agreed to continue funding until a full review of each project was undertaken.

### Reopening of Fishguard and Goodwick Station

On 14<sup>th</sup> March a Network Rail news release, titled 'Goodwick Station Made Good For Rail Use', announced the start of the countdown to the first train stopping at Fishguard and Goodwick station in 50 years. Passengers will be able to enjoy seven trains a day from the rebuilt station, which will boast a brand new station building and a new car park that will also be equipped with disabled access. In addition, the platform has been resurfaced and 150metres of track has been moved towards the station to allow passengers to hop on and off trains safely.

The success of this £450,000 scheme owes to a joint effort between Pembrokeshire County Council, the Welsh Government, the South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH), Network Rail Wales and Arriva Trains Wales.

Councillor Jamie Adams, SWWITCH voting member and Deputy Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council said: "Improvements to rail services west of Swansea were not only a priority for Pembrokeshire but for the South West region as a whole. The re-opening of the station is a positive step for the communities of Fishguard and Goodwick and indeed North Pembrokeshire and will help attract passengers onto the new enhanced rail services."

Mark Langman, Route Managing Director for Network Rail Wales said: "This scheme has been made possible because of a successful partnership between local government and the railway industry. It is driven by a shared vision and Network Rail's devolved strategy that has enabled this scheme to be delivered affordably and in less than half a year. This is great testimony to how new thinking and new ways of working in the rail industry and with government and other stakeholders could continue to help the railway grow and become even more responsive to the needs of passengers. I strongly encourage people to make use of this new facility."

Fishguard and Goodwick station is linked to the main bus route and is easily accessible from both Goodwick and Fishguard town centres, therefore making it a potential gateway, especially for tourists visiting Pembrokeshire. First opened in 1899, the station was named Goodwick station and was only renamed Fishguard and Goodwick in 1904. It was a terminus until an extension to Fishguard Harbour was built in 1906.

The station land is owned by Pembrokeshire County Council and the station will be operated by Arriva Trains Wales, with Network Rail supporting the maintenance of the track and signals.

## **Additional Train Information**

*Station Ticket Vending Machines.* The Forum has received a number of queries about the location of ticket vending machines (TVMs). Arriva Trains Wales has informed us that its Route Map page [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/RouteMap/](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/RouteMap/) displays all the key stations on its network. The stations with a TVM have a black dot in the circle beside each station name. Once it has been confirmed that Haverfordwest has a TVM machine, a black dot will be inserted in the circle next to the station name. Information about which stations have TVMs is also displayed on Arriva's website in Station Search: [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/StationSearch/](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/StationSearch/) and on the National Rail Enquires website: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk).

*Forthcoming Change to the Fishguard-Goodwick Timetable.* There will be a change to the first afternoon/evening train to Fishguard-Goodwick in the next Arriva Trains Wales timetable, which takes effect on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The former 15.15 Fishguard Harbour train out of Cardiff will now terminate at Swansea.

A new service to Fishguard will start from Gloucester at 14.35. It will depart from Cardiff at 16.04, from Swansea at 17.05, and from Carmarthen at 17.58. The train will arrive at Clunderwen at 18.20, at Clarbston Road at 18.28, at Fishguard and Goodwick Station at 18.46 and at Fishguard Harbour at 18.51. The new service will improve the journey to Fishguard by 26 minutes. All seven Fishguard trains will call at both Fishguard and Goodwick Station and Fishguard Harbour.

## **North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum AGM**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum was held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at Llwyngwair Manor in Newport, at 7.00pm.

The Annual Report made particular reference to rail and community transport service developments during the period under review. The provision of additional rail services to Fishguard and the commencement on work to reopen Fishguard and Goodwick Station were warmly welcomed; while the uncertainty with regard to continued funding of the Community Transport Fares Initiative was deeply worrying.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation, 'Bike It in Pembrokeshire', by Sue Mathias, Sustrans Bike It Officer. 'Bike It' is a national scheme, delivered by Sustrans, which aims to increase the number of children cycling to school. 'Bike It' officers work with the pupils to set in place the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm necessary so that 'Bike It' can continue long after the officer moves to other schools. Sue started work on the Bike It project in Pembrokeshire in September and has begun working with schools in the south of the County which she is able to reach more easily by bike. Next year she will begin work in the north of the County.

Sally Francis, Steve Hale, Cllr Judi Hartland, Cllr Peter Harwood, Sophie Hurst, Cllr Byron James, Cllr Michael James, Caroline Wilson, and Hatti Woakes were elected to serve on the Forum's Executive Committee for the forthcoming year.

## **News Briefing Anniversary**

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum's News Briefing is entering its 5<sup>th</sup> year of publication and now goes out to over 250 recipients each month. Our aim continues to be 'the provision of information about transport matters that are relevant to the North Pembrokeshire region', and we value the very welcome responses that we receive from our readers.

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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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