



North Pembrokehire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – April 2012

Community Transport

A National Assembly Cross Party Group on Community Transport has been set up. Cross-Party Groups may be set up by Assembly Members in respect of any subject area relevant to the Assembly. A group must include Members from three political party groups represented within the Assembly. Cross-Party Groups are not formal Assembly groupings and are not, therefore, bound by any of the Assembly's Standing Orders. They have no formal role in policy development.

The purpose of this group is to improve engagement on accessibility and social inclusion issues between the community transport sector, Assembly Members and, where appropriate, the Welsh Government. At its first meeting the group agreed that the first two areas of focus will be funding (in light of the Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative) and hospital transport. Further information is on this link:

www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=294.

Public Transport Users Committee for Wales (PTUC)

PTUC has just placed a report on public information, "PTI - Research into Best Practice", on its website: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/public/ptuc/reports/ptiresearch/?lang=en>. Halcrow was commissioned by the Committee to determine whether 'best practice' in relation to public transport information from a 'users' perspective existed, and if so, what it contains and how it can be developed and delivered within Wales.

The Executive Summary notes that what has become evident from the study is that there are a number of outputs and recommendations necessary to improve information. This includes the need for information production; development and dissemination to be efficiently planned; continuously monitored and effectively enforced to ensure consistently high standards of information is available to users. In addition it is important that to in order improve and maintain standards holistically across Wales, the following important elements to consider are:

- To ensure that those duties and responsibilities placed on the 'guardians' for public transport information production and delivery through relevant legislations are adhered to;
- To ensure that there is a coordinated partnership approach in the delivery of information provision by key stakeholders, to build upon these arrangements where they currently exist;
- To set up mechanisms, through existing legislation, to continuously monitor information provision and dissemination to ensure it meets defined standards, and where appropriate, to enforce with penalties any failure to comply with these standards;
- To ensure that appropriate levels of funding are in place and available for the production and dissemination of information in both urban and rural areas across Wales;
- The Welsh Government to take a coordinating role in improvements and delivery for information provision across Wales; and
- The design of a standard 'National Template' for information production and dissemination

Trains

Assembly Cross Party Group on Rail. The purpose of this group is to champion the case for investment in and improvement of the rail network in Wales and specifically to promote the economic and social benefits that improved passenger and rail freight services will bring to Wales. Further information can be found on this link:

www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgOutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=297.

Fishguard & Goodwick Station. Work on the station site has proceeded apace during the month, building towards the official opening on Monday, 14th May at 1.00pm.

The station lighting and signage is in place, and work is now focused on the station building; as well as on an extension of the cycleway to a point on the port side of the slipway, across the port entrance and along the route of the existing footway to an uncontrolled crossing at the station entrance. The incorrect positioning of the bus shelter on the Harbour side of the road is to be corrected.

Fishguard and Goodwick Train Services. As reported in our March News Briefing, there will be a change to the first afternoon/evening train in the next Arriva Trains Wales timetable, which takes effect on 14th May.

The former 15.15 Fishguard Harbour train out of Cardiff will now terminate at Swansea, and a new service to Fishguard will start from Gloucester at 14.35. This train 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.

A new issue of the 'Visit Goodwick and North Pembrokeshire by Train' leaflet produced by Brian Howells will be available from the 8th or 9th of May, first at local Tourist Information Centres and then widely at various business premises and other locations. Copies will also be distributed to all stations along the railway line up to Cardiff. The leaflet will contain details of the new timetable commencing on 14th May and will of course include the new services at Fishguard and Goodwick station.

Abbreviated and expanded versions of the new Fishguard and Goodwick timetable are now available on the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum's website at www.nptf.co.uk/materials/cat_view/9-documents.html. From 12th May, all seven Fishguard trains will call at both Fishguard and Goodwick Station and Fishguard Harbour.

On 30th March, the Fishguard and Goodwick Chamber of Trade and Tourism held a very useful meeting at Ocean Lab in Goodwick to discuss promotion of the train services to Fishguard and Goodwick. The aim was to explore the potential for promoting the area, identifying obstacles and set out a strategy for overcoming them, and to identify partners to participate in this process and what their contribution might be. Representatives from the Chamber, Pembrokeshire County Council Tourism, Pembrokeshire County Council Transport Department, Pembrokeshire Tourism, Arriva Trains Wales, Richards Brothers, Fishguard Trains website, and the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum were present, along with the Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council's Clerk.

The Towy Valley Explorer. This year the 'Bus That Meets the Train' scheme has been extended, and runs from the beginning of April until the end of August.

"Passengers catch a Heart of Wales Line train to Llandeilo, and a wheelchair accessible bus (which you need to pre book) meets you at the station and takes you to Dinefwr Park, Dryslwyn Castle, Aberglasney Gardens and the National Botanic Garden of Wales. During the day you can shuttle between attractions on the bus, and it then gets you back to the station for your homeward journey. The bus costs just £5 for the day, and the bus ticket gets you in to each attraction for a bargain half price. All the details are on www.thebusthatmeetsthetrain.co.uk, and information about the Heart of Wales line is on www.heart-of-wales.co.uk. For further inquiries, call David Edwards, Heart of Wales Line Development Officer, on 01554 820586 or on mob. 07866 369404".

.....
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
Tel: (01348) 874217. E-mail: info@nptf.co.uk. Website: www.nptf.co.uk.