



North Pembrokehire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

November News Briefing, 2020

Buses

Pembrokeshire County Council

Extracts from the Greenways Officer Report, October 2019 – November 2020

1. *Local Bus Services*

- Disruptions to public transport services as the result of COVID19 led to a substantial reduction in passenger numbers and insufficient income for bus companies to operate services at normal levels.
- Welsh Government (WG) Bus Emergency Scheme funding ensured that operators were able to continue operating. However they were still not receiving funding to cover the shortfall in the cash fare income from passengers. The need to maintain 2m social distancing between passengers reduced capacity. When face coverings were made mandatory capacity was increased to 50% of the available seating.
- Many services were still only operating a few days per week and with reduced frequency of journeys. In August, WG agreed to provide additional funding so that operators could increase service frequency to ensure sufficient provision for school pupils and also any other routes with capacity issues.

2. *Coastal Buses*

- Due to COVID19 it was decided that the Coastal Bus Services would only be operated on a dial-a-ride basis, and services continued to operate only 1 day per week until the start of the summer holidays. From 25th July the 403 (Celtic Coaster) did operate 7 days per week but the other services only operated 2-3 days per week as demand was still very low. The patronage for each service was down considerably from last year. There was a total of 7,161 passengers this summer compared to 67,159 in 2019.

N.B. Due to space limitations, the full report will be provided in a separate email.

Trains

1. *Senedd Plenary*

Statement by Ken Skates MS, Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales, with regard to rail services. 3rd November.

Some points of relevance to south west Wales.

'We will continue to provide, significant financial support to the sector to ensure that services continue to operate so that those who depend on public transport are able to continue to use these services'.

'Rail services that passengers use will, from February of next year, be operated by a new publicly owned subsidiary of Transport for Wales'.

'We will be taking forward this new operating model for as long as we can...and, furthermore, use the joint venture with Keolis and Amey to guarantee that we can deliver integrated ticketing and other improvements in the way that rail services operate in the Wales and borders areas'.

'Integration with bus timetables potentially will be enhanced given the increasing role the public sector will be playing in the management of bus services in the future'.

'We wish to see integrated ticketing developed as soon as possible and then rolled out across the franchise and across the bus network'.

For the full report visit <https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/6616#A61803>.

2. *Transport for Wales (TfW)*

Inaugural meeting of the TfW Transport Liaison Group. 18th November.

Purpose of the Transport Liaison Group (TLG):

'The prime purpose for the group is to formalise engagement with transport user groups, associations and committees and ensure they are well informed and involved with the work of Transport for Wales and its partners, and have the opportunity to offer their feedback. By establishing and formalising this group and its remit, the TLG will ensure that TfW engages with their stakeholders across Wales and Borders, enabling a broad range of input from knowledgeable and regional representatives across various transport modes'.

Objectives include:

- To give an opportunity for discussions directly with TfW and its partners, predominantly our lead train operator TFWRS.
- To allow group members the opportunity to influence key areas of transport delivery.
- To present local transport problems and enable TfW and its partners to find potential solutions.
- To comment on the performance of the train operator relating to achievement of customer satisfaction, delivery of commitments, value for money etc.
- To commission and receive reports about activities and their impact - for example delivery of service, rolling stock, improvements, etc.
- To provide views and comments to TfW and the rail operator on future plans.
- To support wider local engagement and other public events as required.

User groups include the Pembrokeshire Rail Travellers Association and the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum.

The inaugural (Team video) meeting featured discussions arising from the following presentations:

- Update on the Future of the Wales and Borders rail contract, Alexia Course (Rail Operations Director)
- LTP Timetable Update (December 2020 – December 2021), David Clark (Permanent Timetable Manager)
- TfW Rail Operations & Timetable, Lois Park (Head of Community & Stakeholder Engagement)
- Building Passenger Trust in public transport post COVID, Lewis Brencher (Director of Communications).

Welsh Government Consultation Launch

Llwybr Newydd - A new Wales transport strategy, 17th November. Closing date: 15 January 2021.

Introductory Ministerial statements from the consultation document:

Ken Skates MS Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales: 'Our core vision – an accessible, sustainable transport system that is good for people and communities, good for the environment, good for our economy and places and supports a thriving Welsh language and culture'.

Lee Waters MS Deputy Minister for Economy & Transport: 'We are seeking to take forward something positive for the future, putting active travel and our health at the forefront of travel policy. And a new approach, to make more use of public transport because it is good for us, good for our communities, good for the environment and good for the economy'.

Download the consultation document at: <https://gov.wales/llwybr-newydd> or at <https://llyw.cymru/llwybr-newydd>. Further information is available at: Llwybr Newydd – a new Wales transport strategy, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ. Or email walestransportstrategy2@gov.wales. Telephone: 0300 025 6765.

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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