



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## March News Briefing, 2020

### Update on the Current Coronavirus Situation

#### Revised Pembrokeshire Transport Services

##### 1. Bus services

###### 1.1 From a Pembrokeshire County Council News Release.

'PUBLIC BUS SERVICE CHANGES IN PEMBROKESHIRE. Due to the current situation there are a number of changes required to public bus services in Pembrokeshire.

Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Licensing and Major Events, Cllr Baker, noted "Changes are required in order to respond to the Coronavirus situation, and to continue to maintain services to key locations such as hospitals, GP surgeries, pharmacies and certain food stores.

- The timetable information on the Council's website will be kept up-to-date but unfortunately it is not possible to update the information displayed at all bus stops.
- These arrangements may be subject to further change at short notice, and I would ask that anyone wanting to use public transport services to please visit our website for the latest up to date information.
- The one-day-a-week timetable for Coastal Buses (387/8, 400, 404 and 405) will remain until further notice'.

To view the revised T5 and T11 timetables (and all other bus timetables in Pembrokeshire) please go to [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/transport](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/transport) and click on 'bus timetables'

###### 1.2 From TrawsCymru.

- Current government guidelines state that passengers should only be making essential journeys and should stay at home where possible.
- TrawsCymru is here to help with essential journeys around Wales. We are running a reduced timetable on a number of our services in line with this advice so that key workers are still able to make their necessary journeys.
- Please visit the [Traveline Cymru website](http://Traveline Cymru website) for further information on these timetable changes and updates as the situation continues to evolve.
- Unfortunately, given the Coronavirus emergency we have had to suspend the weekend free travel scheme on our services.
- For all the latest medical guidance on the coronavirus outbreak, staying at home and social distancing, please visit the [Public Health Wales website](http://Public Health Wales website). We urge all customers to adhere to these guidelines and to only travel if it is essential to do so.

##### 2. Community Transport services

From PACTO (Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations).

As nearly all passengers and many of the volunteers and drivers are themselves vulnerable, we are following government advice and therefore most community transport services have been suspended.

- RVS and Bus Buddies have refocused support to ensure that passengers who are now isolated / isolating at home have the support they need. More information can be found on this website: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-community-information/community-hub](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-community-information/community-hub) or by Tel: 01437 776301 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm) or Email: [communitycovid19@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitycovid19@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)
- Take Me Too! is still available to assist with lift sharing for people who need to make an essential journey during this period. For more advice about liftsharing during the Coronavirus crisis visit: <https://takemetoo.co.uk/en/news/take-me-too-update-lift-sharing-during-covid-19-outbreak/>
- The PIVOT service is still busy, providing transport home from hospital and support for people who have recently been discharged or to prevent unnecessary admissions.

- Wheelchair Accessible Cars are still available for hire for essential journeys. Contact 01437 711042.
- Green Dragon dial a ride and town rider services are all cancelled for the time being. Our passengers are virtually all in the high risk category as are many of our drivers.
- You can call 0845 686 0242 for sources of advice and help as needed.

### 3. Train services

#### 3.1 From Transport for Wales, effective from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

- Apart from more frequent services to Cardiff Valleys and local area Mainline (South) and Mainline (North) services, typical Sunday service times will be applied seven days a week throughout the Transport for Wales rail network.
- Train times may be subject to short notice change. The most up-to-date service information is available from pm Saturday 21 March 2020, <https://TFWrail.wales/app>, and on digital information screens at stations. Please always check before travel.
- Railway station ticket office opening hours will also be amended to reflect these changes in train services.
- Sign up for updates: <https://tfwrail.wales/travelling-today/live-route-status> and scroll down to the bottom of the page.

### 4. Welsh Government update

#### Some key points from Transport Minister Ken Skates AM, 31<sup>st</sup> March.

Travel demand has reduced significantly following the advice for everyone to stay at home unless in specific circumstances, the need for social distancing, widespread working from home, and the closure of schools and colleges. The public transport network in Wales should now only be used by key workers in providing essential support for our communities, and those without a car to get to shops for essential food and medical supplies. Decisions to help safeguard public transport across Wales include a package of support, worth up to £40m over the next few months.

- This funding will safeguard the future of rail service operations in Wales and the Borders. I intend to provide more details to members on the specifics of the package in further announcements.
- Our on-going financial support to the bus industry, delivered through grants administered by local authorities, will be paid monthly up-front until we are able to put a more sustainable solution in place, or the end of the first quarter of the financial year, whichever is the earlier. During this time, operators, including community transport operators, who have qualified for these payments in the previous two quarters will be eligible.

In return all operators who receive it will commit to the following for the next three months:

- Scheduled services will operate a foundation timetable (contracts to be agreed with local authorities), sufficient to allow key workers to get to work and those without a car to get to shops for essential food and medical supplies.
- No bus will carry more than 50% of its maximum capacity.
- All NHS workers who use a scheduled bus service will travel free of charge

These are difficult times and we need to work together to ensure bus companies are able to deliver these vital services. We will continue to work closely with the industry to develop further support measures and I hope to be able to make additional announcements very soon.

In addition, during this period when we are asking people to travel only for essential purposes, we will be temporarily withdrawing the offer of free weekend travel on the Traws Cymru network, and allowing all NHS staff to travel from free on the TrawsCymru network throughout the week from Monday. I will update members on when free weekend travel may be able to return.

Visit <https://gov.wales/written-statement-covid-19-impact-rail-bus-and-air-services-and-our-response> for full details in the written statement.

#### **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. Email: [hattiwoakes@gmail.com](mailto:hattiwoakes@gmail.com)**

# More about Reopening Goodwick Station 2012

## Some illustrations of straightening the bend in the track



1 & 2. Track sections were moved aside &



the ballast was removed and replaced.



3. Sleepers needing repair were replaced, &



4. track sections were put back in place.