



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – December 2010

Buses

Pembrokeshire Coastal Bus Services. These services (1) provide transport for those using the coast path, strengthening the local economy by attracting more visitors to the area; (2) protect the environment by reducing dependence on cars to access the coast paths; (3) encourage local people to use the coast paths and partake in exercise by making it far easier to access the coast; and (4) provide public transport for residents. Due to popular local demand the Poppit Rocket, Strumble and Puffin Shuttles, and Coastal Cruiser buses provide services during the winter. Website information:

- Timetables: www.richardsbros.co.uk/BusServices.htm.
- Timetables and additional information:
www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk/content2.asp?page=Home&Language=ENG.
www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=838,1629,839,1038&parent_directory_id=646.

Cycling

Blue Door Bicycles: Information about an unusual forthcoming development that might be of interest to cycle (and recycling) enthusiasts in our part of the world. Cycling enthusiasts David Hibbs and Dave Barfield are looking forward to opening up a 'real world' new cycle business in South London early in 2011.

Blue Door will welcome both experienced cyclists and newcomers. In addition to selling bikes, components, clothes and accessories, they will provide maintenance and repair services, as well as providing tips on cycle security, cycles and trains, cycle hire, touring, etc. to help people get the most out of cycling.

Recycling. Blue Door aims to tackle the problem of the 'many sad bikes sitting in garages and hallways in south London - unloved, unused and getting in the way' - by offering trade ins on old bikes. The old bikes will be refurbished and re-sold (saving buyers the hassle of disposing of them) and a donation will be made to charity (Sustrans, Oxfam or Bikes for Africa). Further information about their plans can be found on: www.bluedoorbicycles.com.

Public Transport Users Committee (PTUC)

Mrs Adele Baumgardt has been appointed Chairperson of the Public Transport Users' Committee.

Mrs Baumgardt, now a consultant on all aspects of equality and diversity, was Director of Policy at the Equal Opportunities Commission for Wales from 1999 until 2007. She has wide experience in delivering equality strategies in public, private and voluntary sectors with particular expertise in the new 'positive' equality duties in respect of race, gender and disability. She has been working in both Westminster and with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of the Equalities Act 2010.

She has a Masters Degree in Equality and Diversity from Cardiff University 2006, holds a public appointment to Sport Wales and is Wales Commissioner for the Women's National Commission.

A frequent user of buses and trains in Wales, Mrs Baumgardt has worked with a number of organisations including Bridgend College and the Welsh Consumer Council on projects looking at accessibility and public transport.

She will now become part of the panel to sift and interview potential Committee members. Members will be appointed in March.

South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium: Joint Committee Meeting, Swansea Civic Centre, 10th December. Reports Regarding Train Services

All Points West Community Rail Partnership. Community Rail Officer Alex Owen gave a very informative update about her work. Key activities:

- Active promotion of the Pembrokeshire Rail Card; advertising on Radio Pembrokeshire increased visits to the All Points West website to over 100 a day.
- Joint promotional activity with other Welsh Community Rail Officers.
- Ongoing improvements to the All Points West website: www.allpointswest.info. The site videos have attracted a lot of interest, especially from groups. They have also attracted press visits.
- Regular meetings now being held with the Welsh Assembly Government Rail Unit; meetings with the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACORP) are also extremely useful.
- Regular contact about train training with schools, further education institutions and special needs facilities.
- Seeking volunteers to get involved in work to make stations more appealing.
- A spring poster and flyer campaign is planned, along with further radio advertising and a programme of joint promotional events for 2011.
- Community "A town and its railway" events including exhibitions and pamphlets using collections of old photos; it is hoped that youngsters can also be involved.

Passenger Focus. Increased service frequency, a reduction in replacement rail bus services, and additional summer train capacity are required to encourage more tourists to use the train to visit rural attractions, according to Passenger Focus in its written response to the National Assembly for Wales' inquiry on rural tourism in Wales. While recognising the funding challenges these improvements would require, Passenger Focus highlighted that a simpler fare structure and improved station facilities would also be more likely to entice tourists to use the railway. Visitor attractions in Wales are often located on lightly used parts of the network where rail services are typically infrequent, particularly on Sundays. In addition, engineering works usually take place at weekends, and overcrowding is a problem during the summer months.

SWWITCH Involvement in Long Term Rail Planning. The Local Government Transport Futures Group is involved in making the case for High Speed Rail Services in the UK, and the Great Western Partnership has been established to make the case for HS3 providing a High speed link between London and South West England and South Wales. The Joint Committee supported the proposal that SWWITCH join both groups which would provide a good opportunity for the Consortium to be actively engaged in longer term rail development and promotion of the case for rail investment to West Wales.

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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)

For further information, contact the Secretary, 2 Hill Terrace, Fishguard SA65 9LU
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