



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum

Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – May 2014

FISHGUARD RAIL SURVEY

- Fishguard's trial train services are being reviewed.
- The services also benefit Whitland, Clunderwen & Clarbeston Road.
- Have your say and ensure that the services are maintained.

PROVIDE YOUR SURVEY RESPONSE BEFORE 18th JUNE

The Fishguard Rail Survey - Background Information

The Welsh Government is seeking views on the additional Fishguard rail services that were introduced in 2011- to assess their benefits and the shape of future services. Transport Minister Edwina Hart has asked local groups to carry out a survey about the differences the services have made to the local community and report findings in July. The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum and the Fishguard and Goodwick Chamber of Trade and Tourism worked with representatives of the Welsh Government, Pembrokeshire County Council and Arriva Trains Wales to get the survey up and running by 23rd May.

In order to gain as much information as possible, three surveys are being carried out: (1) a Passenger Survey (carried out by Pembrokeshire County Council Survey Staff on board Fishguard trains for two weeks), (2) a Community Survey (for individuals, groups, etc.) and a (3) Business Survey. Respondents are asked to follow the links below to complete the relevant survey.

Community Survey

- English: http://surveys.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/goodwick14/fishguard___goodwick_train_community.htm
- Welsh: http://surveys.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/goodwick14_cym/fishguard___goodwick_train_community.htm

Business Survey

- English: http://surveys.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/goodwick-fish-train-bus/fishguard___goodwick_train_business.htm
- Welsh: http://surveys.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/goodwick-fish-train-bus_cym/fishguard___goodwick_train_business.htm

Download and print out hard copies from: www.nptf.co.uk/materials/viewcategory/3-documents.html.

What This Is All About

A regular commuter from St Nicholas to Swansea emailed the Forum Secretary, 16th May 2014:

"I met an Irish farmer on the train on Wednesday evening. He asked if Goodwick was the right station for the Seaview Hotel. I pointed it out and then gave him a lift. He was from between Wexford and New Ross and farmed the rare breed Murray Grey beef cattle. He was after a bull and had identified two Murray Grey herds, one in Carmarthen and the other at Whitland. So he had come over on the boat and taken the afternoon train to Carmarthen.

He didn't want an overnight journey home so was staying the night in Fishguard and catching the afternoon boat the next day. Without the extra train services to Fishguard, he wouldn't have been able to travel to Carmarthen and back in the day and choose to stay in Fishguard rather than make a night time crossing.

Thus, the local economy received one night's B&B, plus his visit to the twin towns for a morning.

PS - Reader, he bought the bull".

Fishguard and Goodwick Rail Stations - Signage and Photographs

The Forum has been informed by the Trunk Road Agency that investigations have now been carried out and it is currently proposed to provide "Railway Station" symbols on the relevant existing signs at Fishguard A40/A487 indicating the direction to the train stations. When designs are complete and approved by Welsh Government, arrangements will be made to add the information to the signs.

Forum member Bernard Allan also reports that some months ago National Rail Enquiries invited the public to submit photos of stations for usage in the station specific pages of its website and that his were selected for Fishguard and Goodwick and Fishguard Harbour.

See Bernard's photos at:

- www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/FGH/details.html, and
- www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/FGW/details.html.

North Pembrokeshire Coastal Buses

The Summer coastal bus services are now in operation. Timetables for the 400 Puffin Shuttle (St Davids-Marloes), the 403 Celtic Coaster (St Davids Peninsula) the 404 Strumble Shuttle (St Davids-Fishguard) and the 405 Poppit Rocket (Cardigan-Newport-Fishguard) can be found on www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=838,1629,839,1038&parent_directory_id=646.

Summer Rail - Sail Connections

For the second year the evening train from Rosslare Europort has been deferred between the beginning of June until the end of August to provide ferry passengers with a connection to Dublin. These trains will take a connection off the afternoon Stena Line sailing ex Fishguard only. Full timetable details are provided on the following link: www.irishrail.ie/media/08_-_dublin_rosslare_europort_030614.pdf. Stena hopes that the timetable could continue throughout year, so 'any support that could be given to them over there would be useful'.

Public Transport Users' Advisory Panel

The Forum has been provided with links to the re-advertisement for the role of Chair of the Public Transport Users' Advisory Panel and Expert Adviser on public transport user matters:

- wales.gov.uk/about/recruitment/public-appointments/vacancies/8802964/?skip=1&lang=cy
- wales.gov.uk/about/recruitment/public-appointments/vacancies/8802964/?lang=en

The closing date for applications is 23rd June 2014.

Meeting three times a year, the Panel will bring together organisations with experience and expertise in dealing with public transport and public transport user matters. It will provide advice on:

- Matters referred by the Minister
- Issues that panel members are aware of that affect public transport users
- Evidence of the public transport user experience in Wales.

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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