



# North Pembrokehire Transport Forum

## Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – January 2010

### Community Transport

Bws y Bobol. Between October 2008 to the end of October 2009 the service had 2,085 clients, 154 group users, 30 affiliated organisations, and 39 drivers, with another 6 drivers awaiting training. It is hoped that a Bws y Bobol User Forum can be held in the spring.

Town Rider Services. A Fishguard Town Rider sounding board meeting will be held at the Railwayman's Club in Fishguard on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30-11.30 a.m. The Cardigan Town Rider service which operates in and around Cilgerran and St.Dogmaels for those who cannot access normal public transport continues to run 3 days a week.

Other News. Debbie Johnson, Pembrokehire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO), has reported that the Preseli Hills Bus will run again this summer between Crymych and Bwlch Gwynt, and will connect at Bwlch Gwynt with a new Gwaun Valley Bus, running down to Fishguard. The evening minibus service to Theatr Mwldan is really working well now, and they are trying to see how they might do more with this type of service, seeking first to determine the needs and scope of any services. PACTO also hopes to commission a study during 2010 to get proper information about transport to employment and training for people with awkward work times or who do not live near bus routes, etc.

### Learner and Community Transport LCO

The National Assembly Legislation Committee 3 *The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Transport) Order 2010* Committee Report, January 2010. Some key points:

Community Transport. In his evidence responding to concerns raised by witnesses regarding the inclusion of community transport within the scope of the proposed Order, the Deputy First Minister clarified that community transport is included within the scope of the proposed Order. The Committee report suggests that the Minister should give consideration to amending the explanatory memorandum, in order to make it clear that 'community transport' is included within the scope of the proposed Order.

Learner Transport. The Committee noted and shared the concerns that a significant number of pupils, traveling on public services buses, would be excluded from the scope of the proposed Order. However, it accepted the Deputy First Minister's explanation that the National Assembly does not have competence in relation to public transport with regard to regulation or the safety of buses. The Committee was also concerned that any attempt to seek additional competence at this stage could delay the progress of the proposed Order and prevent any improvements to learner transport vehicle safety. The report states that the Committee is content that the Order will enable the National Assembly to legislate in relation to the description of the vehicles used for learner transport, which will ensure a national minimum standard for many home to school journeys.

Having received assurances from the Deputy First Minister, the report states that the Committee is content that vehicles owned and operated by educational establishments are included within the scope of the proposed Order. However, it suggests that the Deputy First Minister gives consideration to amending the explanatory memorandum to make this clear.

The Committee also gave careful consideration to the omission of learner travel by rail from the scope of the proposed Order and recognised the concerns of witnesses that any mode of transport used for learner transport should be included, if at all possible, in the scope of the proposed

Order. The report therefore recommends that the Deputy First Minister should give consideration to seeking additional powers in relation to learner travel by rail.

In clarifying the definition of 'bus services' the Deputy First Minister explained that coach services are included within the scope of the proposed Order. He stated that: "they are included in the scope of the proposed Order, but for our purposes, it is a matter of policy not to include coaches at present". The Deputy First Minister also confirmed that the proposed Order would enable the Welsh Government to extend the concessionary fare scheme to the TrawsCambria service. Acknowledging these assurances, the report registers content that the definition of 'bus services', in relation to the proposed Order, includes coach services such as the TrawsCambria service. However, the Committee suggests that the Deputy First Minister gives consideration to amending the explanatory memorandum to make this clear.

The full report can be found on the Assembly's website: [www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7887-e.pdf](http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7887-e.pdf).

### **Assembly Committee Calls for Funding for Additional Trains to Fishguard**

The National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Learning Committee published its report on Future Railway Infrastructure in Wales this month. The Committee has recommended that the Welsh Assembly Government should agree to fund the proposal, supported by the regional transport consortium SWWITCH and petitioners to the National Assembly, for providing additional trains to Fishguard.

The report noted that the Committee has a track record of taking up issues on behalf of petitioners and that it had been made aware of a petition submitted to the National Assembly's Petitions Committee by two 15-year-olds, supported by over 1,300 people. The petition called on the Welsh Government to fund additional train services to Fishguard, stating that no new infrastructure would be required.

The Committee raised the matter with SWWITCH, the regional transport consortium for South and West Wales, which had already identified the need to improve rail services west of Swansea, including the provision of five trains a day to Fishguard Harbour. SWWITCH informed the Committee that the business case for the additional services was "robust" because they would increase commuting and the wider use of rail, as well benefiting connectivity across the network.

The full report can be found on the Assembly's website: [www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7872](http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7872).

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## **< < ADVANCE NOTICE > >**

### **North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum -- Annual General (Open) Meeting Letterston Memorial Hall, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm**

**Keynote Speaker: Alex Owen, Community Rail Officer, All Points West**

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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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