



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – February 2015

North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum - 15th Annual General Meeting
Llwyngwair Manor, Newport - Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm.

➤ **The New TrawsCymru T5 Long Distance Bus Service** ◀
David Hall, TrawsCymru Network Manager

The meeting is open to members of the public.
Coffee/tea & refreshments will be provided before the meeting from 7.00pm.

Community Transport

Meeting of the National Assembly Cross Party Group. The meeting, chaired by Eluned Parrott AM, was held in Ty Hywel in Cardiff on 11th February and featured a presentation on the "Overview of Community Transport provision and the State of the Sector Report 2014" by Siân Summers-Rees, Community Transport Association (CTA)'s Director for Wales. The importance of community transport on the health and wellbeing for people living in Wales, especially in rural areas was highlighted. Salient points raised during the presentation and subsequent discussion:

- Membership of community transport schemes has increased by 23,000 since 2010 and accounted for 2 million passenger journeys in 2013 covering over 6 million miles.
- The main challenges identified by organisations were: (1) Uncertainty about future funding streams (85%), (2) Sourcing grant funding (73%), Volunteer recruitment (52%) and Vehicle replacement (44%).
- Short-term funding remains the norm, and valuable resources are diverted by the continual need to undertake bidding for funds. This often constrains organisations from making medium-or long-term commitments to their users, or developing innovative transport solutions (and ways of working).

Visit www.ctauk.org/in-your-area/wales.aspx to download the English and Welsh PDF versions of the CTA State of the Sector Report for Wales 2014.

CTA Wales Conference 2015. The meeting will be held at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea on 4th March, 10:15 - 16:30. Keynote speakers: Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister of Health, and Derek Walker, CEO Wales Cooperative Centre. Booking details: £10 members / £60 non-members. To book a place, visit www.ctonline.org.uk. The CTA Wales Annual Member Meeting will be held from 9:15 - 10:15.

Welsh Government - Wales & Borders Rail Franchise update

Transport Minister Edwina Hart AM and James Price, Welsh Government (WG)'s Director General, Economy, Science and Transport, gave evidence to a Follow-Up Scrutiny of the Franchise held by the National Assembly's Enterprise and Business Committee on 4th February.

Some of the key points raised during the meeting:

Transfer of executive responsibility for Welsh rail franchising to Welsh Ministers

- Offers an opportunity to design Welsh rail services that more fully contribute to an integrated public transport system to better support wider economic and social ambitions.

- The decision to retain services to Fishguard Harbour and introduce improvements on the Heart of Wales and Cambrian lines demonstrates WG's commitment to listen to the needs of passengers.
- Welsh rail devolution should be as extensive as the new settlement being proposed for Scotland.
- The Minister is also in discussions with the Department for Transport to ensure that long distance rail services operated by other franchises meet the needs of people travelling to and from Wales.

Delivery Model

- A not-for-dividend, wholly owned, subsidiary company of the WG. The company will, in its first instance, provide the advice and technical expertise to drive forward the linked projects of the Metro, the next Welsh rail franchise and the Valleys Lines modernisation.
- Then to establish an arm's-length body able to undertake and operate services.
- The Minister stated: 'It will be a matter of weeks before we make the announcements about the company and who will be on the company's board. We have had significant interest from people who are really key within the rail industry, and we're just finalising arrangements on that'.

Rolling Stock

- First of all, there is the need to understand what services are wanted and where, and what rolling stock is wanted and where.
- Purchase of new stock is favoured over cascaded stock. Companies in the UK and abroad are being visited to see what they will be able to provide and what they will be able to undertake. Rolling stock will be compliant with the Persons of Restricted Mobility (PRM) requirements by 2020 and able to meet expected future passenger demand.
- There are issues about mobile diesel units, and, hopefully, by this summer, they should have a good idea of what is wanted.
- There is a need to look at what stations will be required and to identify the station modernisations that will be required.
- The Minister stated: 'I'll be clear in terms of the broad proposals by the summer, but we'll be absolutely clear by Christmas about some of the other elements'.

Visit www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=1307 for the full meeting transcript.

Welsh Government - South West Rail Interest Groups Workshop, Swansea

Following Transport Minister Edwina Hart's request that transport officials provide rail interest groups with the opportunity to register their views on rail matters in Wales, rail interest group workshops have been held in Shrewsbury (13th January), Cardiff (19th February) and Swansea (20th February).

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum's Chairman Stephen Hale and Secretary Hatti Woakes attended the Swansea meeting and felt that it was both informative and constructive. The discussions focused on stations, infrastructure, rolling stock and services, and a full report will be provided in the March News Briefing.

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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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