



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – April 2013

Buses

Real-Time Information. A Forum member has reported that real-time bus service displays have been installed inside the entrance to Wityhush Hospital, providing a big help for both patients and visitors. Even though the informant could have driven from Fishguard to attend her out-patients appointments, she appreciates this improved information, finding the journey on the Richards Bros 412 bus far more relaxing, as it removes worries about finding a parking place for her car!

Special Ticket Offers. The latest Richards Bros timetable booklet reports that West Wales Day Rover Tickets (valid on most buses in Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire) are £7 (Adult) and £3.50 (Child). Weekly tickets are now available: £28 (Adult) and £14 (Child). Weekly Explorer Tickets can be used for unlimited travel on any Richards Bros service bus: £18 (Adult) and £12 (Child). Day Explorer Tickets also available. 'Buy them on the bus'.

Community Transport

Clydau Connections Project. The Welsh Government has confirmed that the Minister has granted an extension to the project so that it can be completed in the 2013-14 financial year. The Clydau Car Club website is now up and running: www.greendragonbus.co.uk/clydaucarclub/.

St Davids and Peninsula Dial-a-Ride: The service has been running since December. It is a door-to-door service aiming to help people who have difficulties getting into St Davids. The driver will offer physical help getting on and off the minibus, and help people with their shopping, so that they are able to do their own shopping. The service can also be used to get to other services in St Davids, or to meet up with friends in other villages in the St Davids peninsula. Everyone is welcome to use the service; the fare is £3 return, and is free for holders of the All Wales Concessionary Travel Pass. The service is supported by Pembrokeshire County Council and Welsh Government and European funding. Booking line: 0800 783 1584; enquiries: 01239 698 506.

Fishguard Town Rider Services. The new Thursdays and Saturdays service is operating well. The 9.30am - 4.30pm door-to-door service has no set route or timetable and can pick up and drop users anywhere in the Town Centre, Pen-yr-Aber, Stop and Call, Maesgwynne, Harbour Village, Lower Town, Scloddau, Dyffryn and Manorowen. The service is free for holders of the All Wales Concessionary Travel Pass. Others will pay a fare for the journey. Booking line: 0800 783 1584. For last minute cancellations or changes to Saturday journeys please call the operator, Green Dragon Bus, directly on 0845 686 0242.

Trains

Fishguard and Goodwick Services. A selection of passenger comments in the Forum's Evaluation Questionnaires that were received in April:

Connections:

- *'Connection at Carmarthen for Cardiff train couldn't have been easier. Journey was totally satisfactory - Very helpful staff.'*
- *'Connection at Bridgend for Llantwit Major train very easy.'*
- *'Trains have improved since service started. We travelled to Seaford (Sussex). Apart from small blip in Brighton all connections 10/10.'*

Services:

- *'Morning trains from Fishguard/Goodwick excellent - would probably go to Carmarthen more often if train arrived back in Fishguard/Goodwick mid afternoon.'*
- *'We travelled with wheelchair & had booked assistance. This service is fantastic, as is the new train service.'*
- *'It was a nice, clean train, very friendly staff & a smooth journey - on time too.'*

Loughor Viaduct & Redoubling Project. At the beginning of the month Network Rail completed the £48m project to replace the Loughor railway viaduct and redouble the line through Gowerton to Llanelli. The project was jointly funded by Network Rail and the Welsh Government in partnership with the South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWITCH). This development has removed a major bottleneck and paves the way for additional Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) services and improvements across west Wales that are set to commence on 19th May.

National Assembly for Wales Enterprise & Business Committee Active Travel (Wales) Bill - Evidence Sessions

The Committee took evidence throughout the day on 18th April:

- *In the morning from.* Prof. Colin Pooley (Lancaster Environment Centre at Lancaster University); Lee Waters, Jane Lorimer and Matt Hemsley (Sustrans Cymru); Rhyan Berrigan and Rhian Davies (Disability Wales); Peter Jones and Andrea Gordon (Guide Dogs Cymru); Hugo Crombie (Centre for Public Health Excellence at the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence); Dr Nicki Pease (British Medical Association) and Dr Mark Temple (British Medical Association Wales).
- *In the afternoon from.* Dr Kevin Golding-Williams (Living Streets); Gwenda Owen (Ramblers Cymru); Dr Hugh Mackay (CTC Cymru); Jont Bulbeck and Ceri Davies, (Natural Resources Wales).

On 24th April, at its final evidence session, the Committee took evidence from John Griffiths AM, the Minister for Culture and Sport, the new Member in charge of the Bill.

See www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IIId=1307 for full transcripts of these meetings. The committee will publish its report no later than 24th May.

Key issues/topics raised and discussed during all evidence sessions included:

- Adequate resourcing for all aspects of mapping, as well as for promotional, educational and infrastructural interventions.
- 'Changing hearts and minds', provision of good facilities for walking, cycling and using public transport - accompanied by restricting car use - tailored to suit local circumstances.
- Detail in the Bill and planning and design guidance for the routes. Looking at networks as connected-up routes, rather than as individual routes and their integration with other transport modes. Consistency across Wales. Improved integration between the urban areas, the countryside and the coast. Bill should apply to recreational and utilitarian use and include rights-of-way networks.
- A more flexible than inflexible approach to the development of guidance; consultation with relevant stakeholders and scrutiny by Assembly Members.
- Deliverable timescales: such as a five-year cycle tied in with regional transport plans to ensure synchronisation between the two sets of plans. Regional transport consortia look at all transport modes.
- Active travel planning needs to be at as local a level as possible, and the role of the local authority in the decision making with the community is critical to that.
- Map making: the need for specialist staff and publication in formats that meet the needs of all types of users.
- Concentration on routes that are limited to communities of 2,000 people, rather than looking at what people need, ignores the potential for shifting journeys to active travel across huge parts of Wales.
- Location of routes: existing network versus new routes; compulsory purchase; cross-boundary issues with paths not quite connecting and different sorts of information provision.
- 'Related facilities': shelter and storage, toilets and washing facilities, safety concerns for all types of travellers, provision of lighting, etc.
- Disabled people include wheelchair users, as well as those with sensory and psychological impairments, learning disabilities and (as with older people) other difficulties.
- Targets, measurement/monitoring of outcomes re 'securing continuous improvement'.
- Legislation, strategy, strategic direction and leadership will all play a part in the process.

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)

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