



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – May 2010

Buses

BUUK Surgeries. In June Bus Users UK is holding 2 surgeries in Carmarthenshire that might be of interest to passengers in the northern part of our region. They will be held on: (1) Friday, 4th June from 10am until 2pm at The Mart Car Park, Newcastle Emlyn and (2) Wednesday, 9th June from 10am to 3m at Guildhall Square, Carmarthen. Current or potential bus users who would like to give their ideas and express their concerns about local bus services are invited to come along and talk to representatives from Bus Users UK, local bus operators, Traveline Cymru and Carmarthenshire County Council.

Northern Bus Connections. Passengers value the connecting services to the north that are offered, Monday-Saturday, by the 412, 50x and 550 services, run by Richards Brothers and Arriva. Particularly welcome is the provision of a link to rail services from Aberystwyth. However, concerns have been raised about the fact that the services do not connect at Synod Inn on Sundays, which presents major problems for travellers, especially for those who wish to travel by train.

Community Transport

Proposed Minibus Services for the Fishguard Area. The Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Operators (PACTO) has identified a need for minibus services in Fishguard, and a Regional Development Plan bid has been submitted for a community transport minibus for that community. In the meantime Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport (PVT) has agreed to base one of its minibuses in Fishguard on a trial basis. A meeting was held at the Fishguard Leisure Centre on 11th May to identify community transport needs in the area and move the proposal forward. The meeting was well attended, and it was agreed that there was a need for this service. A further meeting will be held in order to set up a steering group and start organising the practicalities of the service.

Cycling and Horse Riding

Temporary Closure of Fishguard Bridleway. The Penybryn to Penbanc bridleway runs through the site of the new Fishguard Infants/Junior school, and the SUSTRANS website reports that it will be closed during the construction of the new school. The closure commenced on 19th April 2010 and remains in force for approximately 9 months, or until construction work is complete. Users of the bridleway, which also forms part of the National Cycle Network, will be diverted via West Street car park or Clive Road/West Street and the Ropewalk, depending on the direction in which they are travelling. Signage advising users of the alternative routes will be provided for the duration of the closure.

Trains

All Points West Train Training. All Points West (the South West Wales Community Rail Partnership) has started its work with school children. Its website notes that unlike previous generations of children who were brought up travelling on their own and with their family by rail, many children currently of school age have never been on a train. Alex Owen, the Community Rail Officer, is undertaking a programme of fun training in an attempt to redress this issue. "Train Training" includes work in the classroom, learning how to use timetables and maps, and a field trip either by train, or where this

is not logistically possible, by train and bus. A gallery of photographs of pupils from Lamphey Primary School on their recent train field trip can be found in the Train Training section of the website: www.allpointswest.info/.

Campaign Against Proposed Closure of the Rosslare-Waterford Rail Line. The Forum has written to the campaign expressing its concerns about the proposal to end services on the Rosslare-Waterford rail line, noting the fact that additional rail services are included as a top priority in the SWWITCH Regional Transport Plan. The strategic importance of rail-ferry links between our two countries was also highlighted, as was the important role to be played by improved rail services in view of the growing emphasis on the use of public transport as part of carbon reduction strategies.

South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH)

Transport Poll. The Consortium is polling website viewers (on www.swwitch.net/), asking "With a new session of Parliament approaching, what do you think should be the priority for transport?"

- Rail/Bus Investment
- Roads Investment
- Behavioural Change
- Air Services Investment
- Walking/Cycling Investment

Results on 31st May: (from 20 voters) 50% voted for Rail/Bus Investment, and 50% voted for Walking/Cycling Investment.

Regional Transport Plan Allocations. At the end of March 2010, the four transport consortia in Wales received notification of the RTP allocations for 2010/11.

The total transport 'pot' available across Wales was £22million, and this was split on an interim formula based on other transport grants to Local Authorities (and broadly based on a mixture of population and rurality) to give the following amounts:

SWWITCH: 22.3% - £4.909m
Sewta: 41.6% - £9.150m
TraCC: 13.7% - £3.014m
Taith: 22.4% - £4.928m

In the SWWITCH region the vast majority of the money will be used by Local Authorities to complete or start projects which are part of the RTP programme. A significant proportion of the SWWITCH allocation is committed to the completion of the Quadrant Bus Station in 2010/11.

There will be a small sum of money (less than £250k) available for monitoring and preparing future RTP projects for delivery in future years.

The full RTP can be viewed/downloaded on www.swwitch.net/news.aspx

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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)

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