



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – November 2016

### Community Transport

#### Bus Buddies Project

This Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO) project is now up and running. The project has been widely promoted to prospective user services and groups, and referrals have already come from Hywel Dda University Health Board and support workers for vulnerable adults. A new member of staff, Angela Good, has been taken on board to administrate the PACTO project, alongside a role with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) escorting vulnerable passengers. Potential volunteers, those who need Bus Buddies, those wishing to make referrals and those with any enquiries should all contact Angela or Emma Lewis at [busbuddies@pacto.org.uk](mailto:busbuddies@pacto.org.uk), 01437 770119 or via the PACTO website at [www.pacto.org.uk](http://www.pacto.org.uk).

#### Community Transport Forum for Pembrokeshire – Let's Talk Transport Again

This event, organised by PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development), PACTO and Theatr Fforwm Small World Theatre, was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November in Letterston Memorial Hall. The meeting included:

- Updates from Alan Hunt (PCC Access Officer) regarding the work of the Pembrokeshire Access Group, the Pembrokeshire Passport, and flyers for drivers parking in disabled parking spaces, on footways, or across dropped kerbs.
- Owen Roberts (PCC Integrated Transport Unit) regarding developments in public transport in the six months since the last meeting.
- Debbie Johnson (PACTO Community Transport Development Officer) regarding the Bus Buddies and Car Chums (lift sharing) feasibility study.

Small World Theatre then led discussion sessions about getting more people to use public transport services and to 'lift share', as well as finding out who needs extra support to use public and community transport services.

The discussions will feed into Pembrokeshire County Council's bus services consultation, the Bus Buddies service and proposals for taking the Car Chums project further. To obtain a copy of a report on the event, contact Debbie Johnson on [Debbie@pacto.org.uk](mailto:Debbie@pacto.org.uk).

### Cycling and Walking

#### Pembrokeshire County Council's Active Travel Consultation

*Consultation summary.* The 2013 Active Travel Act is the first law in the world to ensure that planners consider the needs of walkers and cyclists and aims to make it easier for people to travel actively around the county. Now the Council wants to hear people's views on new or improved walking and cycling routes in the County. Routes have to be suitable for journeys to and from workplaces, educational establishments, health, leisure or other services or facilities and do not include routes used only for recreation.

The consultation closes on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. To provide a consultation response - Visit [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=101,988&parent\\_directory\\_id=646&id=34176&Language](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=101,988&parent_directory_id=646&id=34176&Language=) =. Should you have any issues with the questionnaires or wish to bring any matter relating to active travel to our attention please contact Sue Lewis at [sue.lewis@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:sue.lewis@pembrokeshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01437 775435.

### Trains

#### National Assembly - Question in Plenary Regarding the Wales and Borders Franchise

On 11<sup>th</sup> November Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, was questioned about the not-for-profit model proposed for the next franchise.

In his response the Cabinet Secretary replied: 'there are restrictions in place, through legislation from Parliament, that prevents only not-for-profit operators from bidding for the franchise...We are seeking changes to those powers...But, for the time being, we have designed a model—we've been as innovative as we possibly can—to ensure that as much of the franchise through concessions in the next round can

be operated on a not-for-profit basis. The process of competitive dialogue will also place, right at the forefront of deliberation, service quality for passengers, rather than profit motive, and I would share the aspirations that the member has outlined today—for all money to be retained within Wales and to be reinvested in the network’.

To consult and/or download the full transcript of this session - Visit [www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/Pages/Plenary.aspx?assembly=5&category=Record%20of%20Proceedings](http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/Pages/Plenary.aspx?assembly=5&category=Record%20of%20Proceedings).

### **Welsh Affairs Select Committee - Wales and Borders Rail Franchise Inquiry**

In November supplementary written evidence was submitted to the Inquiry by the Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure. Key points made in the submission:

(Regarding correspondence between the Welsh Government and Arriva Trains Wales following the spring 2016 publication of Transport Focus’s National Passenger Satisfaction Survey) ‘I wrote ATW shortly after the spring publication expressing my disappointment with the results...I requested an urgent plan to be put together setting out how the issues raised by the passenger survey would be resolved for passengers.

My officials have subsequently been working closely with ATW on...

- Development of potential options to address overcrowding and add capacity into the train fleet.
- A review of train maintenance quality procedure.
- Additional inspections of known problem areas during maintenance to improve train reliability.
- Improvements to maintenance and presentation at stations and on trains.
- Improvements to customer communication and engagement, particularly during times of disruption.
- Improving passenger’s perceptions of safety and security.

Many of the improvements are scheduled to be delivered by the end of November, and I want to see a clear improvement by the end of this year.

(Regarding the need for devolution of powers and funding over rail infrastructure) This is essential for us to deliver the improvements to speed, reliability, capacity and safety which people rightly expect... the benefits to rail enhancements in England cannot be effectively capitalised upon by Welsh passengers if the network on their side of the border remains slow and unreliable. I have previously expressed my concern that, since 2011, only around one per cent of rail infrastructure enhancement expenditure has been directed towards Wales’.

Consult the full submission on [www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/welsh-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/wales-rail-franchise-16-17/publications/](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/welsh-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/wales-rail-franchise-16-17/publications/).

### **South West Wales Regional Transport Forum**

Members of the Forum (City and County of Swansea, Carmarthenshire CC, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Pembrokeshire CC) met at County Hall in Haverfordwest on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The agenda included presentations on:

- Regional Travel Planning by Kay Mathias
- A ‘My Train Wales’ Update by Jennifer Barfoot
- Transport and Regional Working by Ceri Rees
- The Regional Procurement Framework by Brian Jenkins
- An Active Travel Update by Martin Dolan, Capita.

The meeting concluded with Partner Updates from Arriva Trains Wales, Bus Users Cymru, the Community Transport Association, Great Western Railways, the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum and SUSTRANS.

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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’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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