



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – January 2015

Buses - Launch of the TrawsCymru T5 Service

To link strategic areas, the Welsh Government funds a network of long distance TrawsCymru bus services. These longer distance services are an important part of the integrated public transport network in Wales, providing vital public transport for many communities, while also giving visitors an accessible, affordable and environmentally friendly option for exploring the scenic beauty of the country. A journey planner, as well as journey alerts, can be found on home page of the TrawsCymru website at www.trawscymru.info/.

The new TrawsCymru T5/412 service, operated by Richards Bros, was launched on Monday 5th January 2015. The T5 provides a regular and direct service along the scenic Cambrian Coast, linking Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, New Quay, Cardigan, Fishguard and Haverfordwest. The service operates 6 days per week and features:

- An hourly service (Weekdays and Saturdays)
- pConnections with the TrawsCymru T1 service between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen at Aberaeron
- New low floor environmentally friendly buses (Spring 2015)
- Free WiFi on all buses (Spring 2015)
- Connections with Bwcabus (through tickets available)
- Connections with rail services at Aberystwyth and Haverfordwest
- Good value fares for regular passengers and visitors to West Wales

Click on www.trawscymru.info/t5-1/ to download the T5 timetable.

Note: The 410 bus service also provides connections from Fishguard Square to rail services at Fishguard & Goodwick railway station.

Community Transport

Dial-A-Ride services in North Pembrokeshire. Services are continuing as normal:

- St. Dogmael's and Cardigan services on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- The Crymych-Newport-Cardigan film club Sunday Evening service.
- The Clydau to Narberth service on Mondays.
- Fishguard Dial-A-Ride on Thursdays and Saturdays and Fishguard Flier (covering a wider rural area) on Saturdays.
- The St. David's (and peninsula) Dial-A-Ride on Mondays and Fridays.

The Sgwt Wheels2Work Scheme. The Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO) represented the Sgwt scheme at a Wheels2Work Association Conference in London this month. Dan Rogerson MP, DEFRA Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs, gave the keynote speech, praising the schemes and their impacts. Best practice, contacts and advice were shared, with Pembrokeshire receiving several favourable mentions.

National Assembly Cross Party Group on Community Transport. The group, chaired by Eluned Parrott AM, is meeting at Ty Hywel in Cardiff on 11th February. There will be a presentation "Overview of Community Transport Provision and the State of the Sector Report" by Siân Summers-Rees, the Community Transport Association (CTA) Director for Wales, followed by a Question and Answer session.

In a CTA invitation to the meeting, the Association noted that in Wales, 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. We would therefore particularly like to highlight the importance of community transport on the health and wellbeing for people living in Wales, especially in rural areas’.

Pembrokeshire Intermediate Voluntary Organisations Team (PIVOT). This trial project is working well. PIVOT partners provide home-based low level support for people who are:

- at risk of admission to hospital for non medical reasons and either have no means of transport to get home and/or no family or friends to support them on their return home, **or**
- would benefit from low level prevention and reablement support.

Community transport is an important part of the service offered by the project.

Cruise Ship Visits to Fishguard Harbour

An increase in the number of cruise ships visiting Fishguard was included in *The County Echo's* 30th January report on Fishguard and Goodwick Chamber of Trade's 'Business to Business' event that was held in the Market Hall on 21st January. Reports confirmed that, so far, in June six ships will be calling at the Harbour, and Carl Milne (Stena Line Port Operations Manager) spoke about a positive future for the port, including the increase in cruise ship calls. A Chamber of Trade spokesperson noted that 'It is vital for future success that cruise companies and their passengers have a really positive, warm and friendly experience'. The rise in the number of calls by cruise ships was also welcomed at a meeting of the Fishguard and Goodwick Town Team on 19th January. Work is under way to arrange welcomes, and coordinating hospitality for cruise ships is included in the Town Team's budget.

Welsh Government- Rail Interest Groups

Transport Minister Edwina Hart AM has asked officials to ensure that the Government is aware of the views of rail interest groups on rail matters in Wales and to give them an opportunity to register their views. All relevant groups, including the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, have been invited to put forward their views in person at a series of regional meetings. In advance they were asked to provide a brief indication of their key (positive and negative) views on rail matters. The Forum provided the following response:

Positive

The announcement that control of the Wales and Borders rail franchise will be devolved to Welsh Government. As part of the franchise replacement process, there should be interaction between Arriva Trains Wales and First Great Western regarding the interaction between their services.

Negative

Limited rail service to Fishguard on Sundays.
Poor information on passenger information screens in stations, on platforms and onboard trains.
Poor communication during disruptions. Will be a particular issue during the electrification work.

The Forum has now been invited to attend a meeting of the West Wales interest groups at the Swansea Civic Centre on 11th February 2015.

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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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