



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – July 2013

Fishguard & Goodwick Regeneration Plan

The plan is being developed by a Town Team, set up by Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council and Fishguard and Goodwick Chamber of Trade and Tourism, and assisted by Pembrokeshire County Council's Regeneration Department. The Town Council and the Chamber are both Corporate Members of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, and the Forum is pleased to see that a range of transport improvements are being considered/looked at as part of the plan. The Team believes that the planned improvements would also benefit the wider North Pembrokeshire area, and there is also an aim to reinvigorate a working partnership with South East Ireland.

Transport proposals include improved road and rail access to service the link to Ireland, improvements to the Fishguard town centre road infrastructure, facilitation of coach and bus parking in Fishguard town centre, improved shelter and tourist information at Goodwick station and improved signage to the new railway station. (As a point of interest the Forum has recently been making efforts to see that railway station symbols are added to the ferry symbols that are on the green directional signs in and around Fishguard and Goodwick).

Pembrokeshire County Council - Single Integrated Plan Consultation

The plan sets out the overarching long term vision for the sustainable development of communities in Pembrokeshire over the next 5 years. Preseli Green Dragon was involved in the consultation, and Operations Co-ordinator Emma Lewis has drawn attention to the parts of the Plan which will impact on Green Dragon's future services, funding and opportunities.

- Cross-cutting themes: (1) Sustainable development; (2) Addressing climate change; (3) Transport; (4) Community cohesion and equalities. Plus mental health and well-being.
- Children and Families: Transport included as a cross-cutting theme; Road safety is referred to in the safety section of the plan.
- Economy: Transport included as a cross-cutting theme. Items to be addressed in detailed action plans include: (1) Development of infrastructure, public transport, accessible parking, homes for life and involvement of the third sector in providing more than simply goods and services, (2) Promotion of the development of town centres to allow those on low incomes, disabled, older people and those who do not drive to maintain independence, and (3) Increased emphasis on the link between transport and employment.
- Environment: Limiting car travel under sustainable Natural Resources Wales initiatives. Items to be addressed in detailed action plans include: (1) Helping communities to cope with fuel poverty in the light of rising fuel prices; and (2) Helping communities to cope with rising food prices.
- Health, Care and Well-being: Community cohesion is reflected well throughout the document. The association between socioeconomic deprivation and poor health outcomes is well established. This has a negative impact on community cohesion.

Trains - Wales & Borders Rail Franchise Inquiry

The National Assembly Enterprise and Business Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the future of the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise.

Terms of reference for the inquiry:

- What lessons can be learnt from the current franchise?
- What priorities can be identified to ensure that rail passenger services in Wales and the borders provide the best possible service for passengers from 2018?
- How can service delivery after 2018 deliver connectivity and value for money for passengers while reducing the burden on the tax payer?

Key issues - Issues that the Committee is considering as part of these terms of reference include:

- Whether the current franchise meets passenger needs and what lessons should be learnt from it;
- How passengers should be involved in the franchise development and delivery;
- How communities and local government / Regional Transport Consortia should be involved. Could they be involved in specifying the franchise or perhaps even in delivering services?
- The management model to be adopted, including the Welsh Government's proposal for a not-for-dividend franchise;
- How the franchise specification should improve the passenger experience, including issues such as franchise length, targets / incentives and the core service standards which should be included;
- The routes, particularly cross-border routes, which should be included;
- The rolling stock needed for the new franchise. What factors need to be considered and how this should be procured? Will new rolling stock be required?
- Whether additional lines, enhancements to existing lines, new stations or other infrastructure are needed; and
- Whether the franchise can support an enhanced relationship between Network Rail and the franchise operator and the benefits this might bring.

The Committee welcomes responses from both individuals and organisations. Generally, it asks for submissions to be made in writing because it is normal practice for it to publish evidence on its internet site so that it becomes part of the public record. However, it is also able to accept evidence in audio or video format. The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh and will consider responses to the inquiry and hold oral evidence sessions during the autumn term.

To submit evidence please send an electronic copy of your submission to: enterprise.committee@wales.gov.uk or write to: Dr Siân Phipps, Clerk, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by Friday 13 September 2013 and should preferably be no longer than four pages of A4, have numbered paragraphs and in a word format. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

Trains - SWWITCH Rail Strategy

AECOM has been appointed by SWWITCH to update the consortium's rail strategy for South West Wales. Stakeholders have been invited to a workshop in Carmarthen on 1st August to discuss issues and opportunities affecting the rail network to help inform this project. The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum will be represented by Chairman Stephen Hale and Secretary Hatti Woakes.

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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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