



# North Pembrookeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – July 2010

### Buses

On 21<sup>st</sup> July the Forum's Executive Committee had a very informative meeting with David Hall, recently appointed as the WAG TrawsCambria Network Manager.

Operated by a range of players, Traws Cambria provides longer distance services linking centres in Wales that are not directly served by the rail network. Mr Hall highlighted issues that need to be dealt with and plans for the future.

- Services not operated as an easily identified network (no common branding, route numbering and through ticketing arrangements).
- Variations in service frequency and quality - poor evening and Sunday services.
- Connections and interchange between network services and the rail network not always possible or easy.
- Current vehicle mix not best suited to promoting medium and long distance services.
- More journeys made now, but times haven't improved.

Recommendations by the new TrawsCambria Strategic Management Advisory Board include:

- Rename and rebrand the network - "TrawsCymru".
- Restrict significant timetable changes to May and December to align with national rail timetable change dates.
- Conduct an examination of service procurement options.

Core brand values have been set out for TrawsCymru:

- To be a coherent and readily identifiable network of longer distance services, linking centres not directly served by the rail network in Wales.
- To provide high quality services, accessible and comfortable vehicles and facilities.
- To offer a consistent timetable across the network, with good connections between services and the rail network at key interchange points.

Proposals:

- Introduce new north-south direct coach style services between north and south Wales via Aberystwyth
- Improvements to frequencies of service X32 between Aberystwyth and Bangor.
- Reduce journey times on service X40 between Aberystwyth and Carmarthen.
- Improve quality of vehicles used on the X32 service.
- Look at linking the 412 service between Cardigan-Fishguard-Haverfordwest to the network.
- Introduce a 'national' marketing campaign to promote 'TrawsCymru' services across Wales including a relaunch of the web site.

Mr Hall also reported that he had discussed connections at Synod Inn with Shan Witts, Ceredigion County Council's Senior Transport Manager. Physical improvements are being planned in order to make a 'proper' stop at this location. Members of the Committee emphasized the importance of having Sunday connecting services at this stop, noting the fact that Sunday is now a very popular travelling day. Members of the committee emphasized the fact that the Synod Inn connection provides a vital link to rail services in Aberystwyth throughout the week. Members added that there should be no distinction between services that people 'need' and those that they 'want'. Many remote rural communities now lack almost all basic facilities and amenities. Transport must be provided from these communities to meet the wide variety of 'needs' and 'wants' that cannot be satisfied where people live, or even near where they live.

### Community Transport

The CTA Cymru/Wales Car Scheme Forum met in Carmarthen on 21<sup>st</sup> July. The meeting largely focused on non emergency patient transport. It was acknowledged that there is a need for central co-ordination of the various non emergency patient transport schemes, as the current system is extremely fragmented.

Key points made during the discussions:

- Admission, treatment, discharge and pre and post treatment care should be managed systematically. Non emergency patient transport needs to be considered in this context. CT service providers to rural areas must look at the whole patient process. The time that appointments are made is crucial: very early morning appointments can be a big problem and the same thing applies with regard to patient discharge times. The needs of stretcher case patients differ from those in wheel chairs.

Cancelled appointments affect transport arrangements. There is a need to get the relevant information about patient movements before putting transport in place.

- There is a need for statistics regarding the number of primary and secondary health care patients carried by transport services. There has been no identification of accurate figures for the number of patients whose transport requests weren't met.

Four projects have been set up to pilot different approaches to the provision of non emergency patient transport in order to identify and share best practice. Hywel Dda Health Board is running one of the pilots. An integrated public services, rural transport model is being developed with the three Local Authorities in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The project aims to provide an integrated demand management centre to co-ordinate the use of existing transport resources in the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

## **Public Transport Users Committee**

The Welsh Assembly Government is looking to appoint a chairperson and eight committee members to a newly established Public Transport Users' Committee for Wales. Regrettably the closing date for applications is 5<sup>th</sup> August. For an application pack and further details, contact Public Appointments Unit, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ. Telephone no: 029 2082 3416/5240, or fax no: 029 2082 6869 or e-mail: [publicappointments@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:publicappointments@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

The role of the Public Transport Users' Committee is to be an advisory committee, responsible for:

- Advising Welsh Ministers on all aspects of public transport services and facilities, from and to Wales, either on their own instigation or at the request of Welsh Ministers, providing option based solutions, reflecting passengers' views.
- Making recommendations to the Welsh Ministers on ways to: increase the appeal of public transport; promote social inclusion through public transport services; improve accessibility, safety and mobility of public transport services; encourage sustainable travel and support integrated transport and encourage a shift from using the private car to using public transport.
- Scrutinising, reviewing and evaluating the delivery of Welsh Assembly Government transport policies and programmes and advising Welsh Ministers on their effectiveness and areas for improvement.
- Being aware of the different needs of passengers and their travel experiences such as those of young people, older people or the disabled and to consider for example, the regional, business, tourism travel experiences.
- Engaging with and complementing the work of existing, proposed and new bodies such as those mentioned in the Committee's Role section, as well as users and providers.
- Representing the views of passengers from all backgrounds.
- Gathering evidence of issues and concerns regarding public transport services across Wales and identifying areas of commonality.
- Undertaking and commissioning research particularly in relation to multi-modal transport (different types of public transport including for example, buses, trains, taxis, and community transport) and to review evidence from existing sources of information and the strategic review of public transport complaints.
- Contributing to the development of national and regional transport strategies and to comment on their implementation;
- Producing an annual report for Welsh Ministers highlighting good practice in the field of public transport and areas for further improvement.
- Responding to Welsh Assembly Government consultations as appropriate.
- Referring matters to the Welsh Ministers for consideration as appropriate.

The Committee will need to work closely with other organisations including, for example, Bus Users UK, Passenger Focus, Consumer Focus, Community Transport Association, Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee, local authorities, Transport Consortia and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

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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  
Tel: (01348) 874217. E-mail: [info@nptf.co.uk](mailto:info@nptf.co.uk). Website: [www.nptf.co.uk](http://www.nptf.co.uk).