

# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – May 2012

### Re-opening of Fishguard and Goodwick Station

Long awaited, this was without a doubt the month's most momentous transport development in our region! Closed in 1964, the station was officially re-opened 48 years later in front of an enthusiastic crowd of well wishers on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Following the launch of additional train services last September, rail passengers now have a choice of seven trains a day, Monday - Saturday, travelling to and from Fishguard Harbour and the newly re-opened Fishguard and Goodwick station. These rail developments are the final piece of the North Pembrokeshire transport jigsaw, providing a multi-modal transport hub, radiating out from Fishguard Harbour and the new station located in the centre of Goodwick.

Opening the festivities, Cllr Jamie Adams, outgoing Pembrokeshire County Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for transport and now the Council's Leader, aptly called this a 'red letter day' for the local community, adding that improvements to rail services west of Swansea were not only a priority for Pembrokeshire but for the South West region as a whole. He added that re-opening the station would help attract passengers to the new enhanced rail service.

The Pembrokeshire Youth Jazz Band provided entertainment for the event and a plaque commemorating the station's opening was unveiled by County Council Chairman, Cllr David Pugh.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the Welsh Government, Pembrokeshire County Council, the South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium, Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales for the breadth of crucial support they have provided, that has made all of these developments possible.

### Buses

Another debt of gratitude is due to Richards Brothers bus operators, as they have arranged for changes to their bus timetables in order to provide significantly improved bus connections to the new train services. The new Richards 410 and 412 timetables, which take effect on 6<sup>th</sup> June, can be downloaded from the company's website at:  
[www.richardsbros.co.uk/PDF%20Timetables/410%20412%20%206th%20june%202012.pdf](http://www.richardsbros.co.uk/PDF%20Timetables/410%20412%20%206th%20june%202012.pdf).

### Community Transport

On 29<sup>th</sup> May, the National Assembly's Petitions Committee considered the Wales Community Transport Association's petition calling for continued funding of the Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative (CTCFI). Carl Sargeant AM, Minister for Local Government and Communities, informed the Committee that the evaluation of the 6 year CTCFI pilot scheme evidenced significant issues with their continuing to fund the entirety of the scheme on the present basis. They will now examine the projects independently regarding their benefits. Different avenues of funding are available for some of the schemes, particularly those that are suited to being registered as demand responsive services under Section 22 permits and eligible for funding from the All-Wales Concessionary Fare Scheme. Therefore, the funding of the projects will not end in March but will continue whilst this further evaluation takes place. His officials are in touch with the participating schemes to take this work forward. This will be done over the next few months. He will make a further announcement when he has considered the evidence from this evaluation.

The Petitions Committee agreed to forward the Minister's announcement to the petitioners for comment, once it is available.

### Public Transport Users Committee for Wales (PTUC)

During the past year the newly formed Committee focused its attention on the provision of public transport information in Wales, and in April published 'Provision of Public Transport Information', a report on the evidence the Committee had gathered.

Key report points:

- In Wales current provision of public transport information is centred on operational need and individual expertise. The needs and views of users are rarely sought or considered in how, when and where to provide appropriate information.

- Across the Welsh public transport network, information is inconsistent, fragmented, largely historical/legacy based and not driven by input from users. It appears dependent upon individual authority budget allocation and/or the ability and general comprehension of responsible officers.
- No minimum standards are identified or implemented; resulting in chaotic, inconsistent and inefficient provision that is confusing to users.
- There are no levers or incentives for operators to engage with users or to apply standards to the information they provide.

The report recommends that there should be:

1. Guidance for the provision of public transport information in Wales.
2. Further research into best practice in the provision of public transport information from a users' perspective.
3. Restriction of bus timetable changes to twice a year in line with train timetabling changes.
4. Wales-wide protocols on the provision of public transport information during service disruption.
5. A review of funding mechanisms to bodies responsible for the provision of public transport information, ensuring that standards, accuracy and completeness are part of the funding criteria.

Concluding recommendation:

6. Our evidence demonstrated that the most effective delivery of public transport information occurs under a regulated and centralised environment. Whilst we recognise that this is unlikely to meet the current needs and policy direction in Wales, we recommend that the Welsh Government considers the implementation of a Joint Transport Authority as outlined in the Labour Government's manifesto.

Future Work. PTUC is currently looking at integrated transport issues - how well it works across Wales, and how it can be improved. For further information, download the following documents 'Your Views on Public Transport' and 'Questionnaire' from *Your Views on Public Transport* on the PTUC website [www.wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/public/ptuc](http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/public/ptuc). The Committee would be grateful for your help in this by sharing your views and, if relevant, actual experiences.

## **Forum Evaluation of North Pembrokeshire Train Services**

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum is gathering information about the views of passengers and potential passengers about the rail services to/from the stations at Fishguard and Goodwick, Clarboston Road and Clunderwen. The Forum would like to know whether or not respondents feel that the services meet their requirements, and if the services are likely to encourage more people to use the train.

A copy of the questionnaire accompanies this News Briefing. Please note that the questionnaire does not ask for the names of respondents, but only asks where they live. We believe that the information provided will be helpful and of interest to many interested parties, and we will be sharing the information with them on an ongoing basis.

Questionnaires are now available from the Goodwick Post Office and, in Fishguard, from the Town Hall TIC and Tenby House. We would like to find outlets near the Clarboston Road and Clunderwen stations where questionnaires could be made available. Those who might be interested in helping out should contact the Forum Secretary, Hatti Woakes: tel: 01348 874217 or email: [info@nptf.co.uk](mailto:info@nptf.co.uk).

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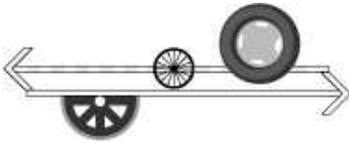
The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum is an independent voluntary group that works for the provision of an effective integrated transport system in the North Pembrokeshire area, promotes the benefits of public transport and works towards the greater use of public transport systems.

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).



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## EVALUATION OF NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE TRAIN SERVICES

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum is an independent organisation working for the provision of improved public transport services to and from the North Pembrokeshire region. The Forum also works to promote greater use of public transport.

This questionnaire offers current and potential passengers throughout the Fishguard/Goodwick station catchment area the opportunity to express their views on the services to/from Fishguard/Goodwick, Clarboston Road and Clunderwen. The Forum would like to know whether or not passengers and potential passengers to and from our area feel that the services meet their requirements, and if the services are likely to encourage more people to use the train.

### 1. Where do you live?

If a local resident, please provide the name of your town, village, etc: and your reason for taking the train:

How often do you use the train services to/from Fishguard/Goodwick, Clarboston Road and/or Clunderwen?

If a visitor from outside North Pembrokeshire, please provide the name of your home town, and your reason for visiting the area:

How often do you use the train services to/from Fishguard/Goodwick, Clarboston Road and/or Clunderwen?

### 2. Specific journey information (if applicable):

Date of travel:

Start station:

Final destination station:

Did you change at any station(s) to connect with another train service?    Yes:            No:

If so, provide the name(s) of the station(s) where you made the connection(s)?

If you did have to change trains, how easy was/were the connection(s)?

### 3. What aspects of the train service and your journey were good / bad? Please say how.

### 4. List the destinations to which you currently travel by train from Fishguard/Goodwick, Clarboston Rd and/or Clunderwen.

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### 5. List the destinations to which you would like to travel by train from Fishguard/Goodwick, Clarboston Rd and/or Clunderwen.

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### 6. Passenger profile. Are you? (Please tick as many as applicable):

Under 20 (yrs)	Employed – full time	Unemployed	Married or In a Partnership	Parent with children under 5
20 - 60 (yrs)	Employed – part time	In education	Single or Widowed	Parent with children 5-15 years
over 60 (yrs)	Self employed	Retired	Disabled	Parent with children over 15 years

*Feel free to use other side of the sheet for further comments. Thank you for your time.*

*Please return this form to the person or shop who gave it to you, or post it to  
Hatti Woakes, NPTF Sec, 2 Hill Terrace, Fishguard SA65 9LU.*