



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

September News Briefing, 2020

Community Transport

PACTO Annual General Meeting

The Organisation's zoom meeting was held on 14th September. At the event they presented findings from a survey of community transport passengers, conducted during May/June 2020, which showed how much Pembrokeshire's community transport services are valued and how isolated people have felt during the coronavirus lockdown.

Service Updates

- Green Dragon have now resumed some dial-a-ride and Town Rider services in response to passenger demand. Additional COVID safety measures are in place. For more information contact Caroline or Heather on 0845 686 0242 or email admin@greendragonbus.co.uk.
- The RVS Pembrokeshire Country Cars service has now resumed for shopping and socially necessary journeys (e.g. hairdresser appointments) as well as for health appointments. The wheelchair accessible Country Car service remains suspended at this time. For more information contact Simon on 07585997091 or email pembshub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.
- Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport wheelchair accessible cars and community minibuses are now available for hire. Journeys must comply with Welsh Government COVID restrictions. To enquire contact Karel on pvtbookings@outlook.com or 07494 275538.
- PACTO's Bus Buddy project has been developing resources to support those who have been isolated and/or shielding to build confidence to travel again. For more information tel: 01437 770119 or email busbuddies@pacto.org.uk.
- Thanks to the PAVS COVID Support Community Action Fund which has funded six antiviral misting machines to help keep Pembrokeshire's community minibuses and accessible cars COVID secure.

Special Announcement - Fflecsi Bus service Now in Pembrokeshire

(From a 28th September TfWrail press release)

- Transport for Wales is surging ahead with its expansion of the fflecsi bus service to another part of Wales. In partnership with Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport (PVT) and Pembrokeshire County Council, the new service will officially launch today in North West Pembrokeshire.
- Fflecsi is a semi-scheduled demand responsive bus service that has a fixed start and end destination, but is flexible and can adjust its route to pick-up and drop-off passengers anywhere within that fflecsi zone.
- Rather than passengers wait at a bus stop for a bus to turn up, they can book a journey in advance using a new app, the fflecsi website or by calling 0300 234 0300. Passengers will then be informed where to catch the bus and at what time it will be arriving – the pick-up point will be near the location of the passenger.

Additional Points

Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport:

- Fflecsi gives passengers more control over how they get around.
- The fflecsi booking system ensures that all passengers are guaranteed a seat and therefore assists with physical distancing measures.

James Price, Transport for Wales CEO:

- The ongoing covid-19 pandemic has had a direct impact on public transport. This new pilot scheme offers us the opportunity to look at a new way of operating public transport and in these current circumstances.

Margaret Vickery, Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport Chair:

- Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport (PVT) is delighted to be working with Transport for Wales (TfW) in a new fflecsi service operating in the St David's Peninsula.
- We are at the early stages of this service and look forward to it shaping up to meet local needs.

Clr Phil Baker, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure for Pembrokeshire County Council:

- This is a very exciting initiative and I am pleased that we have been able to obtain funding to undertake this pilot project in Pembrokeshire.
- I am delighted that we have been able to use the knowledge and experience of the community Transport Sector in Pembrokeshire to drive this service forward. There are a number of Communities which have never had access to a public bus service but now they will.

For the full report *visit* <https://news.tfwrail.wales/news/fflecsi-bus-service-now-in-pembrokeshire>.

For more information about the Pembrokeshire service *visit* www.ffelesi.wales/locations/pembrokeshire/.

TfWrail Services Update

Service overview from Monday 7th September

- Check your journey plans for travel from 7th September onwards as our current amended timetables are changing with more services in peak times, extra capacity and changes to train times to support social distancing.
- The updated timetable will be available on our journey planner and on our rail app from 7th September.
- Most routes will see a reduction in services after 2000hrs and changes to service times.

As a guide this is an overview of weekday service level provision by line of route:

- For South and West Wales

Train Services	Normal Service Levels	Reduced Service Levels
Swansea-Carmarthen	Yes	
Carmarthen-Milford Haven-Pembroke Dock	Yes	
Carmarthen-Fishguard Harbour	Yes	Three return services a day

n.b. Normal service levels to Fishguard Harbour are 7 return services a day, apart from 3 return services on Sundays.

For further details: *Visit* <https://tfwrail.wales/travel-safer/our-current-timetable>.

September Transport Meetings

The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum was represented at the following zoom meetings:

- Great Western Railway Feedback Meeting for Wales, 4th September.
- PACTO Annual General Meeting, 14th September.
- South West Wales Connected Wider Steering Group, 24th September.

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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