



North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

News Briefing – May 2011

Buses

Bus Users UK Cymru. BUUK Pembrokeshire Representative Judi Hartland reported that 412 services on Sunday, now run by Collins, are better. Regrettably there were no coastal buses over Easter; they were only scheduled to begin one week later on the 1st of May. Reporting on a recent all-day day out to St Davids, due to a traffic log-jam in the centre of Newport, her Richards 412 bus was 10 minutes late in Fishguard. However, she was able to continue her journey as the St David's bus had waited for her bus. She added that Richards buses usually wait for each other. Finally noting that the real time information (RTI) displays in Fishguard Square are now functioning, she commented that the lack of explanatory information on the displays might be puzzling to some passengers.

Community Transport

Preseli Green Dragon. The timetables for the summer services of the Preseli Hills Bus and Gwaun Valley Bus are now out. The services are operated by the Preseli Rural Transport Association (tel 0845 686 0242 and www.greendragonbus.co.uk) and will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1st July to 30th September. The minibuses are wheelchair accessible, and the Association says that it would be helpful if those with specific transport needs can let them know by telephoning in advance. The minibuses can also be booked by walking groups at any time of the year, giving groups the flexibility to plan their own itineraries.

The Green Dragon services are promoted by the Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO) in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Greenways. They are part funded by the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Union.

Community Transport Forum for Pembrokeshire. The next meeting of this Forum will be held on Tuesday 14th June in Letterston Memorial Hall, from 10.30 am - 3.00 pm, with lunch provided. To book a place contact Mary Smith by telephone: 01239 821095 or email: mary.smith@pembrokeshiretransport.com.

The meeting will include a community transport update, reports from CT providers, a training update and Driver of the Year Award, the launch of the PACTO Forward Plan 2011-2015, a presentation on Eco Driving, plans to improve non-emergency patient transport and a Wheels to Work Study report.

Minibus Driver Forum and Minibus Emergency Evacuation. There will be free training in minibus emergency evacuation procedures on Tuesday 14th June at Letterston Memorial Hall, from 9.30 - 11.00 am, before the Community Transport Forum. This is a special session run in association with the Community Transport Forum. Places are limited, so please book early with Mary Smith to avoid disappointment.

This practical participative training session demonstrates the principles of quick and efficient evacuation of a minibus under emergency conditions with passengers of limited mobility, including experiencing evacuation of a smoke-filled minibus. Please wear comfortable loose clothing.

Trains

On 25th May the Welsh Government (through its Rail Unit) launched an informal community consultation on the timetable for the five additional daily trains to/from Fishguard, Monday – Saturday, planned to start from September 2011. These are in addition to the two current trains which connect with the midday and midnight ferry services. The preferred timetable has been developed following a first round of consultation with Arriva Trains Wales, the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, All Points West Community Rail Partnership and the Regional Transport Consortium SWWITCH.

The Rail Unit has sent invitations to participate in the consultation to North Pembrokeshire business and tourism groups, civic groups, transport operators, schools, youth groups, senior citizens groups, sports groups, health and accessibility groups, and arts and leisure groups. Invitations were also sent to all of the town and community councils in North Pembrokeshire.

At the same time the Forum passed on the invitation to its members and other interested parties. All consultation documents may be consulted and downloaded from the Forum's website at www.nptf.co.uk/materials/cat_view/9-documents.html. The consultation deadline is Friday, 17th June.

Traveline

A Forum member who travels almost exclusively by public transport has reported that Traveline is much improved in terms of ease of use and also asked that the Executive Committee pass this information on to Traveline. The Committee agreed to comply with the request and to pass on this 'Bouquet' to Graham Walter, Traveline's General Manager. He responded with thanks and the offer of advice/support with information/signing etc. with regard to bus links to the extra trains for Fishguard.

National Assembly for Wales - Transport News

Following the election on 5th May, the Fourth National Assembly has commenced its work. Carl Sargeant AM Minister for Local Government and Communities also has responsibility for Transport. At present there is no indication about which Assembly Committee will be dealing with Transport.

The Committee structure has not yet been established. Information obtained from the Assembly reported that new Standing Orders provide that "Committees (other than the Business Committee and the Public Accounts Committee) will no longer be named in Standing Orders but will be established on a motion or motions tabled by the Business Committee for the Assembly's approval in Plenary. This will allow the Assembly more scope to shape its committee structure in any given set of circumstances (Standing Orders 16.1 – 16.3)." Once the Business Committee has discussed this matter details will be available on the calendar page of the Assembly's website - www.assemblywales.org/gethome/calendar.htm.

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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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