

# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – April 2008

### Buses

Shuttle Bus Services. Walkers and other holiday makers have been out and about in increasing numbers, and many don't seem to have minded the grim May weather. Timetables for the wide variety of shuttle bus services that help visitors and locals to get around in the area can be found in the TICs or on [www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk](http://www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk). The Greenways Timetable adds that travellers in Pembrokeshire can save pounds by using public transport. They are offering children (4 to 16 years) free travel on Pembrokeshire's dedicated coastal buses during the school summer holidays.

Proposal to Devolve Bus Powers to the National Assembly. On 30<sup>th</sup> April, the National Assembly approved a Legislative Competence Order (LCO) proposing to devolve powers to legislate about buses and coaches to the Assembly. Huw Lewis who put forward the proposals stated that the powers might make it possible to create a truly integrated public transport system — to end congestion, tackle climate change, and help people get back to work in a safe, environmentally responsible way; with integrated timetables across Wales between bus and rail services, integrated electronic ticketing, public transport options for travelling to work, and for accessing healthcare, education and learning, leisure and the arts.

### Community Transport

CT Minibus Activities. The Preseli Rural Transport Association reports that the Walkers Bus that serves the Preseli area is up and running on Tuesdays and Sundays. Timetables are available in TICs and on [www.pрта.co.uk](http://www.pрта.co.uk). To make a booking, phone 0845 602 7008. Plans to set up the St Davids and Peninsula *Bws y Bobl* minibus services are moving along, and the committee's next meeting will be held in St Davids on 17<sup>th</sup> June. For further information contact Mary Smith on 01239 821095 or at [mary.smith@pembrokeshiretransport.com](mailto:mary.smith@pembrokeshiretransport.com).

Community Transport Forum for Pembrokeshire. The meeting was held in Letterston on 19<sup>th</sup> May and was preceded by a well-attended free training session on minibus emergency evacuation procedures. The Forum then opened with updates on all of the county's CT services, and participants were provided with copies of a useful Quick Guide to Vehicles Available for Community Use in Pembrokeshire. (In a break with tradition a copy is included in this Briefing). After lunch there was a challenging talk on Eco-Driving (techniques for fuel efficient driving) by Cliff Richmond, followed by a discussion session on the Community Transport Links Project.

### Trains

Wales Transport Strategy. The Wales Transport Strategy was launched at the beginning of the month and contains many provisions that are relevant to the need for improved rail services to Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire. Among them:

- The need to make maximum use of existing infrastructure.
- The need for significant improvements in the frequency of bus and rail services to facilitate modal shift to public transport and to meet targets for reduction in carbon emissions.
- The need for efficient, safe and reliable transport networks and services to support the vital tourist industry.
- The need for enhanced public transport services on the priority Trans European Network routes, including Ireland/Pembrokeshire/Swansea/Cardiff to Bristol and London services.

Assembly Plenary Sessions. Paul Davies, AM for Preseli Pembrokeshire, has highlighted the need for improved rail services in Plenary debates.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May, during the debate on the Wales Transport Strategy Mr Davies made the following points in questions and comments to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport:

- Fishguard and Goodwick are important to the economy of northern Pembrokeshire according to the Wales Spatial Plan.
- The port of Fishguard plays a key role in the local economy, therefore it is important that the port is included in any regeneration plan for the area.
- The recent report by Jacobs consultants supports improvements in rail services to Fishguard and also recommends the re-opening of the rail station in Goodwick.
- Additional rail services to Fishguard would play a part in the reduction of carbon emissions.
- The provision of new rail services has led to a greater uptake of the services than had been forecast.
- Over the past five years Arriva Trains Wales has seen an increase of 13 per cent, on average, per annum in the number of passengers.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May, in a debate on improving transport links to Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire, the First Minister informed Paul Davies that the Government is eager to invest in public transport, particularly in rail and bus services.

## **Walking**

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park has organised two forthcoming walks of interest in our area:

- Starfish and Seaweeds: a Family Shoresearch, on 1<sup>st</sup> June from 11.00am to 1.00pm. Meet at Pwllgwaelod car park.
- From Roadstones to Roofing Slates, on 14<sup>th</sup> June from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. Start at Abereiddi car park.

### **From the Greenways Timetable:**

**Do your bit for Pembrokeshire, Catch the bus!**

**Studies show that taking public transport, rather than the car,  
can reduce your carbon footprint\***

**\* [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com).**

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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 specialist advisor to the Pembrokeshire Community Transport Strategic Partnership and a member of Bus Users UK, the Environmental Network for Pembrokeshire, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services 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).

# **A Quick Guide to Vehicles Available for Community Use in Pembrokeshire**

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## **Bookings**

A list of vehicles available for community use is provided overleaf.

Please make direct contact with the people listed to discuss your requirements and arrange a booking.

For general enquiries about community group minibus hire, please call 0800 783 1584.

## **Charges**

The following charges will be effective from 1 April 2008:

**Large Minibus (14 or more seats) - 65p/mile (40p/km), minimum £16**

**Small Minibus (less than 14 seats) - 45p/mile (28p/km), minimum £12**

**Accessible Car - 30p/mile, minimum £9**

*Minimum charge includes first 20 miles (32km)*

N.B. the Accessible Cars are also available for individual local journeys as part of Pembrokeshire Country Cars. The charges above apply for individuals or groups wishing to make use of the car outside of the Country Car scheme.

## **Drivers**

Groups are usually expected to provide their own driver.

Drivers need to hold a current MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) certificate. For more information about MiDAS or to arrange for an assessment, please contact:

**Voluntary Sector Groups: Cliff on 01994 240 772.**

**County Council Staff: Brendan on 01437 776359**

The charge for MiDAS assessments is £35 per driver.

If you are unable to provide a driver, please discuss this when making your booking, as it may be possible to put you in touch with someone who can help.

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# A Quick Guide to Vehicles Available for Community Use in Pembrokeshire

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## Large Minibuses

Vehicle	Location		Affiliation Fee^^	Contact	
Green Dragon Community Minibus	Tegryn	✓	Yes	Caroline Wilson	01239 698506
Manorbier Community Minibus	Manorbier		Yes	Joan Stace	01834 871311
Bloomfield Community Minibus	Narberth	✓	Yes	Janine Perkins	01834 860722
Pembrokeshire Voluntary Transport (PVT)	H/west	✓	Yes	Val Gau	01437 765201
	Pembroke Dock	✓	Yes	Val Gau	01437 765201
County Council Adapted Vehicles <sup>oo</sup>	Locations across Pembs	✓	-	Brendan Griffiths	01437 776359
Community Education Minibuses (from 1 June 06)	Crymych	-	-	Kevin Davies	01239 831455
	Fishguard	-	-	Pauline Chesters	01348 872488
	Hubberston	-	-	Karen Picton	01646 693216
	Pembroke	✓	-	Eve Robinson	01646 683972


^^ a small affiliation fee is payable to some community groups the first time that you borrow one of their vehicles.

<sup>oo</sup> available to disabled and elderly persons only, evenings and weekends

## Small Minibus

Vehicle	Location		Affiliation Fee	Contact	
PVT	H/west	✓	Yes	Val Gau	01437 765201

## Accessible Cars

Vehicle	Location		Affiliation Fee	Contact	
WRVS Country Cars	Saundersfoot	✓	-	Margaret Vickery	01437 711042
	H/west area				
	Fishguard				

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If you have are a school or community group with a minibus and would like support in making it more widely available for community use, call Debbie Johnson, Community Transport Development Officer on 01437 776550.