



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## News Briefing – July 2008

### Buses

Bus Users UK – Wales. Pembrokeshire's Area Representative, Judi Hartland, attended a meeting of Welsh Area Representatives in Shrewsbury on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008. She reports that the availability of local bus timetables continues to be an issue. Many passengers do not know that they can be obtained in Tourist Information Centres. While the TIC in Fishguard is located right beside the bus stop in the Town Hall, the other TICs holding such material are not in such convenient locations.

BUUK is commencing a detailed survey into the quality of bus services in Wales, which will take account of all aspects of services. The results will be compared with those of last year's survey to see if services have improved, deteriorated and/or changed. Judi Hartland has already started work on the survey of Pembrokeshire services.

### Community Transport

Preseli Rural Transport Association. Green Dragon Connect - a new community minibus service for the Taf valley area - will be launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The dial-a-ride service will run on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and will provide local journeys and a link into the main bus routes, including the 430 Richard Brothers Bus service from Cardigan to Narberth. The vehicle is wheelchair and pushchair accessible. The area to be served includes Bwlchgroes to the North, Llanfyrnach, Glandwr, Blaenwaun, Llanglydwen, Login, Henllan, the top of Llanboidy and Llandissilio. A demand-responsive service, Green Dragon Connect can pick people up from anywhere within the area, not just from designated bus stops. The trial service is designed to help people of all ages get out and about in a rural area where there are few conventional bus services. The project is supported by Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO), the Big Lottery Fund and European Objective One grants. Ring 0800 783 1584 to register for Green Dragon Connect and make bookings and for further information about the service.

The St Davids and Peninsula Minibus Project. Bws Y Bobol, the new community minibus for St Davids and Peninsula, joined the procession in the St Davids carnival on Bank Holiday Monday. The bus is completing its conversion checks and should be in service from mid September. For further information and to make bookings contact Roy Thomas on 075 31 31 00 56.

### Cycling

Pembrokeshire Greenways, in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council and Sustrans, has produced a series of family 'travel free' cycle leaflets. Copies can be obtained by visiting the Sustrans website [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) or [www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk](http://www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk). Pembrokeshire Greenways has also been working with Pembrokeshire County Council to produce short, medium and long cycle rides from TICs in the county. For updates check the Pembrokeshire Greenways website or [www.cyclepembrokeshire.com](http://www.cyclepembrokeshire.com).

Most of the National Cycle Network's 'Celtic Trail' is in Pembrokeshire, finishing in Fishguard. More information is on the Sustrans website. Pembrokeshire Greenways reports that Saundersfoot and Newport have been designated as 'cycle hubs' in Pembrokeshire, with two new cycle packs detailing a series of day rides. The packs contain detailed route maps, with routes suitable for all members of the family, information on the area, and cycle friendly accommodation. To obtain a pack visit [www.cyclepembrokeshire.com](http://www.cyclepembrokeshire.com).

## Walking

Pembrokeshire Greenways reports that over 200 circular walks are available to download on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's website: [www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk). Additional information can be found on Pembrokeshire County Council's new walking website: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/walking](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/walking). PLANED, as part of the Greenways initiative, has produced a selection of dedicated walking routes, available at local Tourist Information Centres or at [www.planed.org.uk](http://www.planed.org.uk). 'Easy access' and 'wheelchair and scooting' walks have better surfaces, easy slopes and no stiles or difficult gates. Such walks are listed on [www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk) and [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/scooting](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/scooting).

## South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWITCH)

'Progress in Partnership - The Consultation Draft Transport Plan for South West Wales' was published last month and the two month long consultation is now under way. The plan can be downloaded from the News section of the SWITCH website: [www.swwitch.net/](http://www.swwitch.net/). Hard copies of the document may also be consulted in Pembrokeshire County's main libraries. The Forum urges members and others with a transport interest to participate in the consultation, as there are many transport proposals that would bring significant improvements in transport to, from and within the North Pembrokeshire region.

### SWITCH Website 'Transport Priorities' Poll

"The Wales National Transport Plan will set out the priorities for their transport commitments outlined in the Wales Transport Strategy. Which of the following do you believe should be the priority for scarce resources? Railways, Trunk Road Network, Smarter Choices, Ports & Air, or Long Distance Bus & Coach Travel".

To participate, details are located at the bottom of the left hand menu on the home page: [www.swwitch.net/](http://www.swwitch.net/).

*Results as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008:*

Railways 36%, Trunk Road Network 33%, Smarter Choices 18%, Ports & Air 0%, Long Distance Bus & Coach Travel 12%.

## Forum Participation in the National Park's Marquee at the County Show Launch of the Forum's New Website

The Forum was invited by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority to join other community groups in celebrating its partnership work with local communities and organisations. Representatives were on hand throughout the Show to talk about the work of the Forum. On the opening day, Cllr Robin Evans, Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, kindly agreed to launch the Forum's new website, [www.nptf.co.uk](http://www.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 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,  
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