



# Complete Agenda

Democratic Service  
Swyddfa'r Cyngor  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Meeting

**CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE**

Date and Time

**1.00 pm, FRIDAY, 20TH MAY, 2016**

Location

**Ystafell Glaslyn,  
Y Ganolfan (ger yr Harbwr),  
Porthmadog  
Gwynedd**

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED: 13.05.16)

# **CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Cyngor Gwynedd**

Y Cyngorwyr Selwyn Griffiths, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Dewi Owen, Angela Ann Russell, Eirwyn Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams ac Owain Williams.

### **Cyngor Sir Ceredigion**

Disgwyl am enwebiad

### **Cyngor Sir Powys**

Y Cyngorydd J M Williams

Y Cyngorydd Trevor Roberts, Cynrychiolydd Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Rheilffordd Amwythig/Aberystwyth, 6 Llys Dedwydd, Abermaw, Gwynedd. LL42 1HP

Mr Nigel Adams, Rheolwr Polisi, Bwrdd Croeso Cymru, Ty Brunel, 2 Ffordd Fitzalan, Caerdydd CF24 0UY

Mr Dave Thomas, Rail Improvements & Assembly Business Manager, Welsh Assembly Government Rail Unit, Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3NQ

Mr Ben Davies, Stakeholder Liaison Manager / Rheolwr Cysylltiadau Hapddalwyr, Platform 1, Railway Station, Conwy Road, Llandudno Junction, North Wales LL31 9NB

Mr Tim Bell, Arriva Trains Wales, St. Mary's House, Penarth Road, Cardiff.

Mr Dylan Bowen, Network Rail, 5th Floor, 5 Callaghan Square, Cardiff. CF10 5BT

Mr Carl Jones, Network Rail, Machynlleth Station, Machynlleth, Powys.

Mr David Crunkhorn, Service Delivery Manager, Arriva Trains, Machynlleth Station, Machynlleth, Powys. SY20 8BL

Mr Chris Wilson, TraCC, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth SY23 3UE

Mr Dafydd Wyn Williams, Prif Beiriannydd Trafnidiaeth a Gofal Stryd, Gwasanaeth Trafnidiaeth a Gofal Stryd, Adran Rheoleiddio, Cyngor Gwynedd, Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Caernarfon.

Mr Tudur O Williams, Prifathro, Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech, Gwynedd.

Pennaeth Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn, Tywyn, Gwynedd.

Pennaeth, Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Penrallt, Pwllheli, Gwynedd.

Mrs Clare Britton, Commercial Manager, Ffestiniog Railway, Harbour Station, Porthmadog.

Arglwydd Dafydd Elis Thomas, Aelod y Cynulliad Dwyfor/Meirionnydd, 7 Bank Place, Porthmadog.

Mrs Liz Saville Roberts, Aelod Seneddol Meirionnydd Dwyfor, Stryd Glyndwr, Dolgellau, Gwynedd.

Ms Joyce Watson, AC Rhanbarthol dros Ganolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd. CF99 1NA

Mr Russel Ian George, AC Rhanbarthol dros Sir Drefaldwyn, 13 Parker's Lane, Y Drenewydd SY16 2LT

Mr Simon Thomas, AC Rhanbarthol dros Ganolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd. CF99 1NA

Mr D Woodhouse, Aberdyfi and Tywyn Tourism, 8 Ffordd Dyfrig, Tywyn, Gwynedd, LL36 9EH

Mr J Scotson, Chief Executive Officer, Rheilfordd Talyllyn, Wharf Station, Tywyn, Gwynedd.

Mr Roger Goodhew, Shrewsbury – Aberystwyth Passenger Association, 12 Granville Street, Copthorne, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY3 8NE

Cyfarwyddwr Priffyrdd, Eiddo a Gwaith, Cyngor Sir Ceredigion, Neuadd y Sir, Aberaeron.

Mr D L Roberts, Trefri Fawr, Aberdyfi, Gwynedd. LL35 0LS

Inspector Mark Armstrong / Sgt. Wynne Lane, North Wales Police, Police Station, Dolgellau, Gwynedd.

Sgt. Karl Anderson, British Transport Police, Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury. SY21 2DQ

PC Rob Newman, British Transport Police, Castle Foregate, Shrewsbury. SY21 2DQ

Mr David Lewis, Cymdeithas Eryri Society, Dolafon, Llanbedr, Gwynedd. LL45 2DJ

Mr David Hern, Regional Transport Planner (Mid Wales) Department for Enterprise, Innovation & Networks, Ladywell House, Newtown, Powys. SY16 1JB

Mr Delwyn Evans, Meirionnydd Access Group, 5 Islwyn Terrace, Lombard Street, Dolgellau, Gwynedd.

Cyng. Alun Wyn Evans, Cynrychiolydd Cylch Meirionnydd Un Llais Cymru, Fferm Penllyn, Ffordd Neifion, Tywyn, Gwynedd, LL36 0DP

Cyng. Trefor Jones, Cylch Dwyfor Un Llais Cymru, Talar Deg, Chwilog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd.

Disgwyl Enwebiad o Grwp Mynediad Dwyfor / Awaiting Nomination from Dwyfor Access Group

# **A G E N D A**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Chairman for this Committee for 2016/17.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for this Committee for 2016/17.

**3. APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

**5. URGENT MATTERS**

To consider any business which the Chairman decides is urgent.

**6. MINUTES**

6 - 11

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2015.

**7. REPORT BY NETWORK RAIL**

To receive a report by Mr Dylan Bowen, Network Rail.

**8. REPORT BY ARRIVA TRAINS WALES LTD**

To receive a report by Mr Ben Davies, Arriva Trains Wales.

**9. REPORT BY THE CAMBRIAN RAILWAY OFFICER**

12 - 26

To receive a report by the Cambrian Railway Officer.

**10. REPORT BY BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE**

27 - 28

To receive a report by a representative of the British Transport Police.

**11. FORMAL QUESTIONS**

29 - 32

To receive responses to the questions enclosed herewith received since the previous meeting.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

To convey a declaration from the Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Community Council stating that it does not support re-opening the Afonwen to Bangor railway line due to the estimated cost of £50m which could be put to better use on road improvements in Meirionnydd.

# Agenda Item 6

## CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

**Minutes of a meeting of the Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference that took place at y Ganolfan, Porthmadog on 13 November 2015 from 1.00 pm until 2.20 pm**

### PRESENT

Councillors Annwen Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Dewi Owen, Angela A. Russell, Eirwyn Williams, Owain Williams (Gwynedd Council), Cllr. Michael Williams (Powys CC), Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas (Assembly Member Dwyfor/Meirionnydd), Mr David Roberts (Snowdonia National Park), Ben Davies (Arriva Trains Wales), PC Rob Newman (British Transport Police), Mr Philip Sayers (Talylyn Railway), Mr Roger Goodhew (Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Passenger Association), Mr Alun Wyn Evans (Un Llais Cymru (Meirionnydd), Mr D. Woodhouse (Aberdyfi and Tywyn Tourism), Mr Rhydian Mason (Cambrian Railway Partnership), Llinos Roberts (Community and Public Transport Officer), Mr Delwyn Evans (Meirionnydd Access Group), Mr Dylan Bowen (Network Rail), Mrs Mererid Watt (Translator), Mrs Glynda O'Brien (Member and Scrutiny Support Officer).

**Apologies:** Councillors Selwyn Griffiths, John Brynmor Hughes, Gethin Williams, Mrs Liz Saville Roberts (Member of Parliament Dwyfor/Meirionnydd), Ms Rebecca Evans (Assembly Member, Mid and West Wales), Mr Simon Thomas (Assembly Member Mid and West Wales), Mr Tudur Williams (Ysgol Ardudwy), Mr Trevor Roberts (Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Railway Committee).

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

**Resolved:** (a) To re-elect Councillor Selwyn Griffiths as Chair of this Committee for 2015/16.

(b) To express the Committee's thanks to Councillor Selwyn Griffiths for his hard work in his role as Chairman over the last year.

#### 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

**Resolved:** (a) To re-elect Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams as Vice-chair of this Committee for 2015/16.

(b) Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams was asked to chair this meeting as Councillor Selwyn Griffiths was unable to attend due to a family bereavement.

#### 3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any member present.

#### 4. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent matters were received for discussion.

#### 5. MINUTES

**Submitted:** Minutes of the conference meeting that took place on 24 April 2015.

**Resolved:** To accept and approve the above minutes.

## 6. NETWORK RAIL REPORT

No written report was submitted by Network Rail, however, Mr Dylan Bowen reported verbally on the following developments:

- (i) That Network Rail had written to the stakeholders to advise that there would be a delay with the work of completing the lift at Machynlleth Station until March 2016. Due to the weather forecast for this weekend, it would be impossible to use the crane and it was trusted that the work could be completed by March.
- (ii) In response to the above, a Member stated his disappointment and that only one platform could be used and in addition passengers had to wait at Dyfi Junction. Having said this, it was felt that the provision when in place would be a huge improvement.
- (iii) In response to a question by Councillor Owain Williams regarding concern about the delay at Dyfi Junction specifically for passengers from Machynlleth to Pwllheli, Mr Bowen explained that in terms of upgrading the route for road-users Network Rail would be more than willing to collaborate with a third party to provide a plan but it would be more beneficial if such a plan could be included in a wider transport plan. It was stressed that Network Rail would not be responsible as the main driver of any plan in terms of funding but it was ensured that they would collaborate with authorities and he made reference to examples where such plans had been operated to provide car parks in South Wales.
- (iv) It was suggested that an item to discuss Dyfi Junction should be referred to the joint meeting of the Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Railway Committee and the Cambrian Coast Railway Committee that would take place on 27 November 2015 at y Plas, Machynlleth.
- (v) In terms of Cllr Gethin Williams' question regarding implementing a moratorium on Barmouth Bridge payments during the planning/repair period, Mr Bowen noted that he had discussed the matter earlier with the Member. It was noted further that Network Rail was in the same position as Gwynedd Council regarding having to find savings with a target to find approximately 20% over the next period. However, discussions were continuing with Gwynedd Council regarding repairing the bridge with the intention of reducing maintenance costs. It was currently premature to report fully but it was noted that initial discussions were on-going between Network Rail and relevant stakeholders including Gwynedd Council and the Snowdonia National Park and CADW.
- (vi) Mr David Roberts referred to concern regarding land in the ownership of Network Rail called Bryn Llestair (Picnic Island) and he was aware that the South Snowdonia Access Forum had contacted Network Rail regarding the land yet they had not received a response. The land was used by approximately 1,000 students from Outward Bound Wales.
- (vii) In response to the above, Mr Bowen noted that he was not aware of the matter, however, if the South Snowdonia Access Forum could contact him and/or via the Member Support Officer he gave an assurance that he would follow the matter up.
- (viii) Concern was expressed by Councillor Dewi Owen regarding the excessive overgrowth on land in the ownership of Network Rail between the A493 boundary wall and the railway. It was noted that there were sharp corners on the highway in question and there was a real need to cut back the overgrowth to prevent any accidents.

- (ix) In response to the above, Mr Bowen noted that Network Rail had a successful vegetation management plan and that railway safety was a priority for Network Rail. It was suggested that if the Member noted the exact location of the overgrowth and forwarded this to the Member Support Officer she could then send this on to Mr Bowen to follow up. It was further noted that Members could contact the 24 hour helpline with any issues of concern and if they were not satisfied with the response then they could contact Mr Bowen directly.

**Resolved: (a) To request that the Member Support Officer refers the above matters to Mr Dylan Bowen for further attention.**

**(b) To refer an item to discuss Dyfi Junction to the joint meeting of the Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Railway Committee and the Cambrian Coast Railway Committee to take place on 27 November 2015 at y Plas, Machynlleth.**

## 7. REPORT BY ARRIVA TRAINS WALES LTD

Reference was made to the report submitted and attached to the agenda by Mr Ben Davies on behalf of Arriva Trains Wales Ltd. that referred to:

- Key achievements – noting that customer satisfaction was at record levels (89%) and was one of the top performing rail operators in the UK
- Performance measures – 97.9% and 93.5% in terms of reliability and punctuality
- £45m had been invested against a franchise requirement of only £400,000
- New and improved services that included adding trains with additional seats, introducing new products and supporting community projects
- Franchise overview and it was stated there were:
  - 2,204 employees
  - 1,009 route miles
  - 956 services operated per day
  - 27.4 million passenger journeys per year
  - a fleet of 128 trains
  - 247 stations, 55 of which were staffed.

During the meeting an additional hand-out was circulated to the Members.

Mr Ben Davies added that there had been an increase in the number of passengers on the trains during this summer and that this was heartening year on year with the ERTMS system proving to be a success.

A new service was seen from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth with the 7.00pm train and although it did not stop at each Railway Station discussions were continuing to try and resolve the situation.

Mr Trevor Roberts, Vice-Chair of the Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth Railway Committee had been in discussion with officers from Welsh Government regarding a timetable that was acceptable to all.

It was recognised that there was a need to give consideration to establishing more shelters and more car parks and the intention would be to conduct local discussions.

In response to the complaints regarding long waits for connections at Dyfi Junction, the Cambrian Railway Partnership Officer explained that the matter was receiving attention in terms of identifying which train has to wait long in order to identify this for the new timetable next year.

The following matters were drawn to the attention of Mr Ben Davies and he gave an



assurance that he would give them urgent attention.

- (a) That the train windows were dirty
- (b) Complaints regarding the toilets

**Resolved:** To accept and note the report and request that Mr Ben Davies deals with points (a) and (b) above.

## 8. **CAMBRIAN RAILWAY PARTNERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT**

A report was submitted by the Cambrian Railways Partnership Officer outlining the activities undertaken, such as:

- A Helping Hand – Film Project – film for young people with special needs that won an ACoRP award in the category 'Passengers Matter'. The film had also been submitted to the UK Rail Industry Awards. In addition, it was noted that arrangements were in hand to show the film and address Members of Parliament, Assembly Members, Peers and senior civil servants at both the Senedd in Cardiff and the Palace of Westminster.
- Aberystwyth Station – Shopmobility – there was an agreement in principle to work with CAVO to meet rail passengers who had pre-booked a shopmobility scooter at Aberystwyth station.
- School Posters Campaign - this was part of a programme in which pupils were tasked to design a safety poster and a number had been displayed at stations local to their schools.
- Publications – he elaborated on several examples in order to encourage railway use.
- Cambrian Implementation Group - focus groups and surveys had been organised together with discussions with Caersws Community Council to look at the potential opportunities for a more suitable car parking arrangement for the station
- Community Rail Wales – A meeting had taken place with the Minister to see how the work of partnerships could be further supported by Welsh Government.
- Website – it was noted that the number of visitors were increasing.

In response to a comment made by a Member regarding promoting the film, the CRP Officer noted that Arriva Trains Wales would assist with this. He took the opportunity to thank Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas in relation to the arrangements to visit the Senedd on 19 November to launch the film.

It was added that it would be possible to show the film to Members of this Committee at the next meeting, however, in the meantime a link could be sent to the Member Support Officer to forward to Members.

On behalf of the Committee, the CRP Officer was congratulated for all his work in promoting the railway.

**Resolved:** To accept and note the report.

## 9. **REPORT BY THE BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE**

PC Rob Newman presented a brief summary of recent activity and noted that not much had happened on the Cambrian Railway. The majority of cases dealt with were road traffic offences mainly the on-going problems of vehicle drivers misusing level crossings.

Locally, it was noted that there were cases of misuse across Talwrn Bach level crossing at Llanbedr. It was understood that barriers would be installed soon on the level crossing in question.

It was noted that the opening of Wetherspoons Public House at Pwllheli had impacted on the amount of passengers on the 20:12 hours service from Pwllheli to Machynlleth on Friday and Saturday evenings. Some reports had been received from train crews reporting abuse from passengers, particularly in relation to the time access given to the train before departure from Pwllheli. They would work closely with British Transport Police from Bangor and Rhyl to monitor any further problems.

It was noted further that if there was any problem on the railway/trains that it was possible to contact British Transport Police or send a text message to number 61016.

In response to the Police Officer's report, it was pleasing to hear that barriers would be installed on Llanbedr level crossing bearing in mind that approximately 500 cars travelled from Mochras at any one time and that it was one of the largest camps in Europe.

In response to a comment made by a Member regarding having a Police Officer on duty outside Wetherspoons, Pwllheli, PC Rob Newman explained that this would be under the jurisdiction of North Wales Police but Pwllheli Transport Police could try to target problems at the railway station and on the train. It was not possible for them to be in Pwllheli every Saturday night but it was understood that there was CCTV outside the public house.

**Resolved: To accept, note and thank PC Rob Newman for the report.**

10. **FORMAL QUESTIONS**

(a) Two formal written questions had been submitted by Conference Members and it was noted that the relevant officers had dealt with one of these during their presentations. Regarding the question from Councillor Gethin Williams it was understood that he had discussed the matter with Mr Dylan Bowen, Network Rail.

(b) Membership – A request had been submitted by Penrhyndeudraeth Town Council together with a letter from the Meirionnydd Committee of Un Llais Cymru to invite every Community and Town Council with the railway line running through their wards to be members of the Cambrian Coast Railway Committee.

It was reported to the meeting that there were 16 Community / Town Councils on the coast. It was also noted that local Gwynedd Council Members had been elected to serve on the Committee and were able to report to the Community/Town Councils they attend on the matters discussed at the Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference.

Following a discussion on this matter, it was suggested that the Community/Town Councils may raise matters with the Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference by referring them to either the local elected member / the two representatives of One Voice Wales and / or by agreement of the Chair that a representative may be invited to attend the meeting. Also, in future the Members and Scrutiny Support Officer be requested to send an agenda to the Clerks of the 16 Community / Town Councils as listed below.

**Resolved: To request that the Member Support Officer:**

**(a) responds to a letter from the Dwyfor and Meirionnydd Area Committee to convey the Committee's decision as outlined above.**

Friday, 13th November, 2015

(b) in the future that an agenda/minutes of the Committee is sent to the following Community/Town Council Clerks:

**Meirionnydd**

**Dwyfor**

**Aberdyfi**

**Porthmadog**

**Tywyn**

**Cricieth**

**Llangelynnin**

**Llanystumdwy**

**Arthog**

**Llannor (Abererch)**

**Barmouth**

**Pwllheli**

**Dyffryn Ardudwy**

**Llanbedr**

**Llanfair**

**Harlech**

**Talsarnau**

**Penrhyndeudraeth**

**CHAIRMAN**

# Agenda Item 9



## **LDO's report May 2016**

### **Aberystwyth Station Shopmobility project:**

Following some months since this was first discussed, am pleased to report that we now have an agreement with CAVO/local shopmobility service providers to provide a 'meet and greet' service at Aberystwyth Railway station to cater for those people requiring assistance with their mobility. This service will be open to those people arriving by train at Aberystwyth Railway Station who have pre-booked a shopmobility scooter, and will be met at the station by a representative who will be on hand to provide the necessary training/briefing on use of the vehicle as well as do the scooter 'handover'. A specific area has been allocated at the station which we are working with shopmobility providers to get signposted and marked. This is all with the full co-operation of Arriva Trains Wales and is another example of how we are able to facilitate projects for the benefit of those people who may need some additional assistance.

### **A Helping Hand – film project and follow up:**

We continue to receive excellent feedback from the film and it remains in my opinion a shining example of how a community rail partnership can work with a train operating company to produce something with far reaching positive impacts on a wide range of people.

This film has now helped influence ATW's own in house training programme across the franchise area to the extent that training concerning the Orange Wallet scheme is being rolled out to all public facing staff, and all staffed ticket offices are now displaying 'Orange Wallet accepted here' stickers on doors.

We hope to influence other TOCs (particularly those within the Arriva UK group!) to benefit an even wider audience across the UK.

We plan in the near future, with the assistance of Liz Saville Roberts MP to hold a presentation on this project at Westminster.

### **Poster Cases**

20 large scale poster cases have been purchased and are in the process of being erected at selected Cambrian stations. We hope to purchase more cases

this year to have at least one case for the use of partnership and/or community projects at each Cambrian Station. ATW's station care team have been deployed to undertake the work of erecting the cases.

We have a number of posters created by school pupils as part of an outreach project which will be displayed initially in the cases, we also have produced some posters to accompany our newer leaflets as well.

**Publications:**

We now have 2 new tourism brochures available – our 'Beaches and Castles' leaflet featuring every beach and castle on the Cambrian Lines, and a third in our series of 'Wales on Rails' Leaflets, which we have produced jointly with the Heart of Wales and Shrewsbury-Chester lines. These were both distributed and very well received earlier this week at a 'Community Rail in the City' event which I attended, held at Birmingham New Street Station.

**Community Rail Wales**

Community Rail in The City – Birmingham New Street station 11/05/16.  
On Wednesday some of the UK's main railway stations were invaded by community rail partnerships as part of a nationwide event organised by ACoRP (Association for Community Rail Partnerships). I along with colleagues from Heart of Wales, Shrewsbury-Chester, and Conwy Valley lines, attended at Birmingham New Street, promoting our respective lines and giving the passers-by reasons to come to Wales for their day-trip, short-break, or summer holiday. We engaged with hundreds of people with a genuine interest/curiosity and I hope that this is an event that we can build upon in future and invite some of our tourist attractions to attend as well.

**Website**

Visitor numbers are increasing as expected with the tourist season upon us, and it is interesting to note a significant increase in visitor numbers to the relevant facebook and twitter pages as a result of our event in Birmingham this week!

**Please refer to our annual review for further information.**

**Diolch yn fawr / Many thanks.**

**Rhydian Mason  
Rail Development Officer  
Cambrian Railways Partnership  
12/05/13**



PARTNERIAETH RHEILFFYRDDY  
**CAMBRIAN**  
RAILWAYS PARTNERSHIP

ADOLYGIAD BLYNYDDOL

**2016**

ANNUAL REVIEW



*IT HAS truly been a year of working in partnership over the past twelve months, a year which has yielded excellent results, and one that has seen stronger links forged with a number of organisations across Wales.*



*During the year we have seen a significant change in the running pattern of the trains on the Cambrian Main Line, with an additional 8 services between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury to provide a 'peak' hourly service and an additional service on the Cambrian Coast line giving it a 2-hourly service throughout the day Monday to Friday. This in part is down to the work of the partnership's rail development officer who has worked as part of the Cambrian Rail Implementation Group which was sanctioned by the Minister Edwina Hart (the Heart of Wales Line's equivalent officer also sits on the HOWL Implementation Group as well). The group continues to work on other exciting projects on the line, working closely with Arriva Trains Wales, Network Rail, and the Welsh Government which has in turn afforded community rail in Wales far more exposure at Welsh Government level.*

*In terms of working with communities the Confident Traveller project – part of a joint effort with ATW's Schools Liaison Officer and the Cambrian Railways Partnership has developed significantly with many more schools and colleges participating in the scheme – helping build bridges with their rail network from a young age.*

*In this review I hope that it will give you a suitable overview of how this small, but perfectly formed Community Rail Partnership is one of the most innovative and dynamic CRP's in the UK.*

*Community Rail is far more than simply putting planters on platforms and pretty pictures in pamphlets – though planters and pamphlets are important – to us it is also about making sure that the railway is able to deliver the service that the customers need, and that the customers (whether currently rail users or not) feel confident and able to make use of the rail resource that serves their communities, linking them with other communities across Wales, the UK, and beyond. Only by working integrally with the entire rail industry and the communities which they serve can this be achieved.*

*I feel that in the past 12 months we have proved that this little partnership has achieved far more than the sum of its parts thanks to the foresight of all funding partners who have actively supported the officer's work programme throughout the year. I hope that the next twelve months sees similar success with the themes that we plan to follow in 2016-17.*

*Rhydian Mason  
Rail Development Officer  
Cambrian Railways Partnership.*

## “A Helping Hand”

Our major project in 2015 was the production of our new information resource ‘A Helping Hand.’ This project was a progression from our previous award winning information film ‘First Class Safety’, produced as a direct result of outreach visits made to special needs schools and colleges where the first film was shown to various groups. It soon became apparent that many of those students were simply unaware of how to organise the additional assistance that they might need, and many were unaware that there was additional assistance available on the UK rail network free of charge.



Filming at Borth – Phil Caldwell (ATW) directs Pete (Coleg Ceredigion) whilst Jay (AMP Media) films.

Therefore, and in-line with our aims of encouraging more use and better use of our railway as a public transport resource we decided to expand our own provision to be more inclusive to those with learning difficulties, additional needs and mobility issues. Again, a film based information resource was deemed the best option, and again, with the help of the experienced AMP Media, and with advice and technical expertise from Arriva Trains Wales, Network Rail and ATOC, not to mention practical support from Virgin Trains and British Transport Police, the film project came together. Additional funding for this project was received from ACORP via the Welsh Government Grant scheme.

Working closely with students and lecturers/supporters from both Derwen College in Gobowen (one of the UK’s leading residential colleges for young people with learning difficulties) and the Vocational Access course at Coleg Ceredigion in Aberystwyth, the parameters and requirements of the film were drawn up, ensuring that the finished product’s contents and information was ‘fit for purpose’.



Charles Symons (AMP Media) filming at Euston Station



Following completion of the film, it was entered in the 'Passengers Matter' category at the 2015 ACORP awards which it duly won outright.

The film has also been endorsed by David Sindall, head of Disability and Inclusion at ATOC, and Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas. ASD-info-Wales (an all Wales organisation promoting Autistic Spectrum Disorder resources) is also promoting the film as an excellent resource.

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas sponsored an event at the Senedd in January 2016 where the film was formally launched, along with a campaign to draw attention to the Orange Wallet Scheme which is featured in the film.

We have also heard at the end of January 2016 that the film as part of the wider project (encompassing our previous film – First Class Safety) called 'The Confident Traveller' has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2016 Welsh Business Awards, as a joint entry with Arriva Trains Wales in the 'Excellence in Community Relations' category.



Students from both colleges with Phil Caldwell (ATW), Rhydian Mason (CRP) and Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas at the official launch of the film earlier this year.



Winners! At the 2015 ACORP Awards held at Torquay, the film won the 'Passengers Matter' Category outright. Seen here are Rhydian Mason (CRP), Phil Caldwell (ATW), Robin (Derwen Colege), Aled (Coleg Ceredigion) receiving their award.

## Our Publications

This year has seen something of a shift in terms of the focus of our promotional brochures. Traditionally the CRP has always focussed on the tourism products that a trip on the Cambrian lines can offer, however, this year, to coincide with the introduction of the additional rail services that were introduced in May 2015 we looked at focussing on the local market, highlighting the new opportunities for commuting by train that were afforded by the new 'peak' hourly services. We also looked at capitalising on the positive publicity that emerged from the additional services announcement by launching our 'Connections by Cambrian' campaign which focussed on how easy it is to get to major UK destinations from the Cambrian line.

We have also commissioned two further publications which will take us right back into the heart of tourism related offerings which we will have ready for distribution before the start of this year's tourist season.

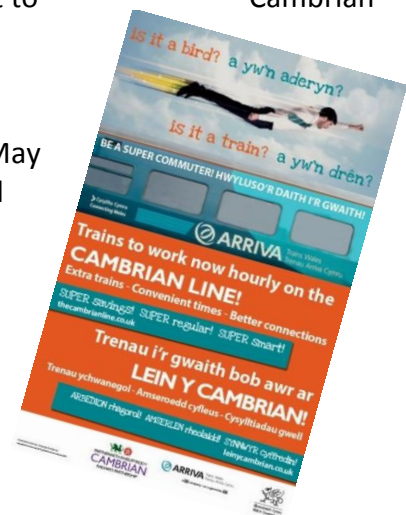


### "Connections via Cambrian" - completed

One of the misconceptions that are frequently given by non-rail users is that 'you can't get anywhere with our trains without having to change trains all the time'. For destinations north or south of Shrewsbury, or beyond Birmingham this is true – but not to the extent that the misconception carries. The connections leaflet was produced to explain in the simplest possible terms how many connections/changes are required from the Cambrian Lines to get to major destinations in the UK (and abroad via Birmingham International Airport!). This leaflet has proved popular and useful and has proven effective in explaining to people across the UK how easy it is to get to destinations.

### "Commuting via Cambrian" - completed

The introduction of 'peak' hourly services on the Cambrian in May 2015 was as a direct response to the recognised latent demand for rail services at peak hours on the Cambrian line identified during the October 2013 rail surveys. As such, this was an opportunity to engage with commuters and job-seekers across the region to introduce them to the concept of travelling to work via train. The surveys conducted during October 2015 showed a marked increase of over 40% in rail use particularly amongst those commuting.

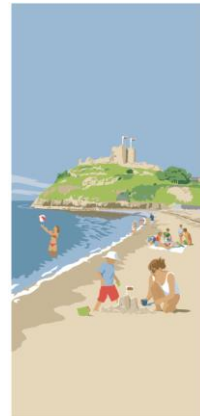


### "Beaches and Castles" – commissioned

It has been some years since the CRP last did a traditional 'trip to the beach' type leaflet, and, following sight of a modern, crisp, French variation on this theme entitled '*Les plages et le chateaux*' it was decided that we should once again revisit this concept but with a more modern twist. This has now been commissioned and we are in contact with CADW to see

how we can work with them to encourage visits to Castles by train by offering visitors with a valid train ticket a 20% discount or a '2 for 1' on their entry fee.

The castles featured will of course be Harlech, Criccieth and Caernarfon (the later being only a short ride by WHR away), and mentions will also be made of Aberystwyth and Powis castles which are both iconic locations in their own respects. We are spoilt for choice in terms of beaches all the way from Aberystwyth right up to Pwllheli, therefore this will hopefully be a throwback (but with a modern twist) to the old holiday values of 'heading west by train'.



Work in progress – specially commissioned artwork will form the basis for the beaches and castles brochure. Artwork evokes memories of the 'classic' rail posters of the early 20th century and the idea for this project was inspired by a conversation with

This will be ready well in time for the tourist season.

### “Wales on Rails 3” – commissioned

This partnership has often focussed on the Welsh ends of the line, and rarely in comparison has Shrewsbury – the other end of the line – had its fair share of the spoils in terms of tourist information.

Following on from the previous 2 Wales on Rails pamphlets which focussed on short breaks/weekend breaks for families on a budget (WoR1 – Aberystwyth area) and also on romantic breaks for couples (WoR2 Criccieth area), we are now going to be focussing firmly on using Shrewsbury as a base/hub from which to explore locations on 3 different community rail lines – the Cambrian, Heart of Wales, and Shrewsbury-Chester. This will be an opportunity for 3 community rail partnerships (with lines that converge at Shrewsbury) to work together on a joint project that will not only promote our respective lines, but also promote Wales as a whole, as a destination within easy reach of a bustling border town with plenty to do.

This is already underway and will be ready well in time for the tourist season.

### Promos in print

We also promote our partnership and our railway from time to time in selected publications such as Mid Wales Tourism's Bedroom Browser (a copy of which is located in every accommodation providing member of MWT residences throughout Mid Wales, Going Places, a popular tourism based newspaper distributed throughout the north west of England and the Midlands, Ceredigion Council's own 'Ceredigion Tourism' brochure (distributed throughout the UK), and occasionally, we will consider advertising in other publications as well. It's all about promoting the Cambrian region as the place to be, and the Cambrian Line as the way in which to get here.



## Welsh Government engagement

Over the past 12 months the Cambrian Railways Partnership has become a far more familiar name to Ministers, Members and Officers at Welsh Government. The level of engagement and interaction is the highest it has ever been thanks to a number of factors which have fallen into place at the right time, as well as a positive 'can do' attitude between both sides.

Since the establishment of the Mid Wales Rail Implementation Groups, both on the Cambrian and Heart of Wales lines, we have enjoyed a far more productive relationship with our colleagues at Welsh Government which has led to far more opportunities being presented to us on the Cambrian and on the other community rail lines in Wales.



Hosting the first Wales & Borders franchise specification seminar for Rail Interest Groups – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, City Hall, Cardiff.

In May 2015 I was invited to host a seminar on the future of Wales and Borders franchise specification by Welsh Government at City Hall, Cardiff. Indeed, as a member of the Cambrian Implementation Group I am able to ensure that the Cambrian Railways Partnership now has an opportunity to comment directly on major developments for the line by being a part of that group. To date we have been involved with the hourly service campaign that led to 9 additional services on the line in May 2015, are involved in discussions relating to new and improved infrastructure at existing Cambrian stations and are also involved in discussions about the potential for new stations on the line.

This has emerged thanks to our involvement on the Implementation Group – much as my counterpart on the Heart of Wales Line has been involved in similar projects on his line simultaneously. This has led to a number of significant positives for us, including a far higher 'credibility' for the type of work and projects that our partnership and other Welsh CRPs are able to deliver either on their own or as part of a wider, more regional, co-operative group.

There is no doubt that our involvement on this group has been hugely positive in all aspects, not least of which is the impact on users of the railway line who are experiencing changes for the better in many aspects of their rail experiences.

## Cambrian Rail Implementation Group.

As a member of this group the partnership is being given the opportunity to influence high level decisions for the benefit of rail users on the Cambrian, and the opportunity to engage closely with the Minister and her senior civil servants on other issues.



Cakes made by Welshpool Town Council and given to passengers on the first day of new services!

In May 2015 this led to 9 additional services being introduced on the Cambrian Lines as a direct result of work undertaken jointly by the Rail Development Officer. Indeed, the work leading up to the extra services was acknowledged by ACORP (Association for Community Rail Partnerships) with a 'Working In Partnership' Award presented in October 2015 to the Cambrian Rail Implementation Group.

To celebrate the arrival of the additional services, the CRP helped organise a series of hurrah's at stations on the Cambrian, starting with the 'new' 1230 from Aberystwyth (which has proved to be a particularly well used train since it's introduction). A Delegation

of VIP's were invited along including representatives from each of the Local Authorities, Assembly Members, Town Councils and the media. This culminated in a special reception hosted at and by Shrewsbury Town Council who welcomed this enhanced link with Mid Wales.

We were commissioned as a group to undertake a further survey in October 2015 to 'mirror' the October 2013 survey which ultimately led to the introduction of the new services. As part of the survey programme I suggested that we also hold a series of informal focus groups at the main stations on the line to gather further, supplementary information from rail users that wouldn't otherwise be captured. The survey, along with the results from the focus group revealed a hugely positive outcome.

In the first 6 months since the introduction of the additional services, which were supported by 2 mini-PR-campaigns from the Cambrian Railways Partnership, initial results from a further survey undertaken by the Implementation Group suggest and increase in passenger numbers of around 40% - a staggeringly positive outcome for all involved.



Elin Jones AM looks on as an excitable crowd gathers at Aberystwyth for the first ever departure of a 1230 service from the station in recent times.

Partnership working, as part of the Implementation group continues working closely with the Welsh Government on future possibilities, including work to facilitate new stations on the line, station infrastructure improvements, and possibly, further train services!



Mark Williams MP for Ceredigion – a regular Cambrian user caught the 0830 from Aberystwyth on this day, instead of his usual 0730, to be amongst the first to use the 'new' trains.



Members of Machynlleth Town Council greet the train at their station as it comes in.



Russel George AM for Montgomeryshire grabs a commemorative cupcake at Welshpool



Some of the Shrewsbury town council delegation complete with town crier greeting the train on arrival.

## The CROWs – The Community Rail Officers of Wales.

As the only 'group' of Community Rail Officers in the UK that pro-actively work together regularly it has been a busy year for the 'CROWs' (Community Rail Officers of Wales). Thanks in part to the excellent relationships and bridges that have been built between the Welsh Government and the Cambrian and Heart of Wales Rail Partnerships we as a group have been afforded numerous opportunities by the Minister Edwina Hart herself to engage with various departments within her portfolio including discussions relating to the next rail franchise and how it might integrate community rail as 'part and parcel' of its forthcoming specification. To this end, we have jointly prepared a number of papers and briefing notes for the Minister outlining a vision of how community rail partnerships could be included within part of the next specification. Whilst much of what we envisage mirrors that which the Department for Transport is specifying increasingly in England, we firmly believe that we



would be in a far stronger position than many CRPs in England due to our extensive history of working co-operatively as a group should we be able to benefit from the same support – both financial and otherwise – that will be afforded our English counterparts.

In February this year we were given an opportunity to meet with the new chair of Visit Wales – Margaret Llewellyn. This was an extremely positive meeting during which we as individual development officers were given an impromptu 'soap box' opportunity to 'sell ourselves' in terms of the tourism product, or potential tourism products that we could offer. We firmly believe that we are an asset to be utilised by organisations like VW and initial responses from our meeting with them have been positive.

In terms of the future engagement, we collectively wish to continue what we have started by being integral parts of project based improvement initiatives such as those that are underway on both the Cambrian and Heart of Wales Lines. It is something of a model by which community rail partnerships can get involved far more strategically, making better use of their engagement with the communities they serve.

## Events and Promotion



At the 'Re-Freshers' Fair, Aberystwyth University 2016.

Over the past year we taken many opportunities to 'sell ourselves'. We do this by distributing our publications to a wide range of places – from pubs to hotels to caravan parks to schools and places of work. We also visit various locations and events to take our own displays out to the people. This is an important part of what we do in that it gives us the opportunity to talk one to one with interested parties. The comments and conversations vary from discussions on the comfort of seats, to discussions on what to do on a day off by train, all the way to sometimes very intricate and complicated discussions on 'bull head rail' when

presented with a bone-fide enthusiast.

We have worked closely with colleagues at Traveline Cymru at numerous events – Freshers Fairs being a prime example. Working with an organisation like Traveline enables us to jointly become a travel and transport hub at that particular event and is an arrangement that works well.

We've also taken displays to related events at locations like Chester Station and also at the Senedd in Cardiff, not to mention attending other smaller events and workplaces.

Recently the focus has been predominantly on the new services, and looking ahead, the focus will be far more on more opportunities to 'promote' tourism and the Cambrian to a wider audience.

**ACORP** Through ACORP and their 'Community Rail in the City' programme we will be given an opportunity to display the Cambrian at the newly re-built Birmingham New Street Station in May.  
**New life for local lines**

We also have an opportunity to get involved with the Machynlleth Comedy Festival, an event which, despite humble beginnings is now a major part of the UK Comedy scene, and an event which brings people to the area from all over the UK. If we were to be involved we would then focus on working with the organisers to promote the Cambrian lines as a means by which people would get to the festival. It is an excellent high profile opportunity.



One issue that we do have however is making ourselves more prominently seen at our own stations. To this end, we will be procuring a number of standard railway size (Double Royal) poster cases to be erected at our main stations. In order to make sure we make the best of them we will be producing a double royal poster to match each of our brochures, meaning that we can promote the partnership, our website, and a range of our eye-catching publicity materials across our lines.

## **2016-2017**

A project plan for 2016-2017 has already been prepared which outlines how we will make best use of the resources available to us.

I hope that we will continue to work closely with colleagues at Arriva Trains Wales on what has been in the Cambrian's case a most productive and positive 12 months in 2015-2016.

We are now at a stage where stocks of most of our publications are exhausted, which gives us an opportunity to refresh some of them where necessary before re-printing selected items.

I also believe that the time is right to consider venturing into social media advertising/promotion, and to this end I would like to produce a short 30second or 1 minute commercial along with a paid package for showing it on social media and you-tube sites. Using key words, people searching for 'Trains in Wales', Cambrian, Rail holidays, rail tourism etc, would be directed to watch our short film before being taken to their selected video. Likewise, Facebook also has a similar facility. I believe this is the next step up which will once more mark us out as a totally forward thinking and dynamic community rail partnership.

In addition, there are preliminary, informal discussions underway to consider producing a further information film that will answer another problem that we have identified. The incorrect use of occupational crossings (of which there are a few on the Cambrian lines!) is something which can have serious consequences, and a number of incidents and/or 'near misses' over the past few years means that we should consider how we can help facilitate an awareness campaign. With our award winning experience of information film production I believe we could work with the rail industry, and in particular the farming industry representatives (both main unions and the Wales YFC networks) to come up with not only a useful information film, but also the networks by which the film would be distributed and viewed. If we are able to proceed with this I believe it should be shot entirely on the Cambrian (and marketed as such), but be produced in such a way that it would be relevant anywhere in the UK.



## Conclusion

I hope that this annual review gives a flavour of how we are evolving as the Cambrian Railways Partnership. I think that the past 12 months has been the most fruitful in the partnership's history in terms of not only achieving tangible results, but also in terms of building bridges.

The challenge now is to capitalise on the past year and make the absolute most of what we can in the year ahead.

My thanks to all who have supported the partnership in any way over the past year. Diolch yn fawr iawn.



## Report to Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Committee.

20<sup>th</sup> May 2016

This year has again shown a marked decrease in most type of offences on the Cambrian Coast.

The majority of cases dealt with are Road Traffic Offences, mainly the on-going problems of vehicle drivers miss-using level crossings. In the 12 month period to April 2016 twelve offenders have been issued with Fixed Penalty Notices, fining them £100 and resulting in 3 penalty points being put on their driving licences. These were for offences of Failing to Comply to the red lights, or in the case of more serious breaches, Careless Driving.

BTP have been working closely with Network Rail in relation to issues at crossings, particularly at Harlech. This crossing, which is very unusual in that it has a road junction within the confines of the crossing, has recently had the road surface renewed, and the road markings re-painted. Since this work was carried out, there have been no reports of misuse.

### **Red lights mean STOP. Simple!**

#### Anti- Social Behaviour.

Further decreases in instances of Anti-Social Behaviour have been noted over the past 12 months. One incident of Drunk and Disorderly behaviour was put before the courts in the last twelve months, as a result of incidents on the Cambrian line, resulting in a 27 year old male from Manchester receiving fines totalling £260.

Investigations are currently on-going into two other instances of Disorderly Behaviour, one between Aberystwyth and Caersws, and the other between Barmouth and Porthmadog. In both cases suspects were identified from on-board CCTV cameras and have been interviewed. Files are currently with the Crown Prosecution Service.

There has been a significant decrease in the number of party-goers returning from Aberystwyth to Newtown and Welshpool on the 19:30 hours departure on Saturday evenings. It would appear that a good proportion of these passengers are choosing to go to Shrewsbury instead, with a subsequent increase in patronage on the last Aberystwyth service from Shrewsbury. This departure is regularly monitored by BTP officers and, although very busy, is usually well behaved.

Services to and from Pwllheli on a Saturday evening are also being monitored and it would appear that, rather than causing a large increase in passengers on the last Machynlleth departure at 20:12 hours, there is now a significant increase in numbers travelling to Pwllheli on the last couple of arrivals. This

would appear to be due to the opening of a Nightclub near to the station. Further monitoring through the summer period will be carried out.

It is important that all rail passengers, and train crews, are able to make their journeys and carry out their duties without fear of intimidation, or of being a victim of crime. As an integral part of the infrastructure of the Cambrian Coast, it is all the more important that we demonstrate to our many thousands of visitors, that travelling by train on the Cambrian Lines, at any time of the day or evening, can be, and is, a safe and pleasurable experience. BTP will continue to work with all our industry partners to ensure this continues to always be the case.

**CYNHADLEDD RHEILFFORDD ARFORDIR Y CAMBRIAN**  
**CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE**

**Cwestiwn i TRENAU ARRIVA CYMRU CYF. / Question for ARRIVA TRAINS LTD**

Beth yw eich cynlluniau i gael cyhoeddiadau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar rheilffordd y Cambrian?"

What is your plans to have Welsh announcements on the Cambrian Line?

**Cwestiwn i / Question for NETWORK RAIL**

**Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for LIAISON MEETING**

Oddiwrth / From: Y Cyng. Selwyn Griffiths

I'w dychwelyd i / To be returned to:

Glynda O'Brien  
Swyddog Cefnogi Aelodau a Chraffu  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
Cae Penarlag  
DOLGELLAU  
Gwynedd. LL40 2YB

Erbyn / By:

02.05.16

**CYNHADLEDD RHEILFFORDD ARFORDIR Y CAMBRIAN**  
**CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE**

**Cwestiwn i TRENAU ARRIVA CYMRU CYF. / Question for ARRIVA TRAINS LTD**

**Cwestiwn i / Question for NETWORK RAIL**

Beth yw'r diweddaraf ynglyn a gosod bariau ar groesfan Talwrn Bach, Llanbedr. Mae trafniadaeth yn cynyddu dros y groesfan hon yn ddyddiol a gyda'r Neuadd bentref yn cael ei ail leoli (dros dro) yn safle y maes awyr, bydd mwy o drafnidiaeth eto.

What is the latest regarding installing barriers on the Talwrn Bach Crossing in Llanbedr. There is a daily increase in traffic over the crossing and there will be further increase since the village hall is being relocated temporarily to the aerodrome.

**Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for LIAISON MEETING**

Oddiwrth / From: Y Cyng. Annwen Hughes

I'w dychwelyd i / To be returned to:

Glynda O'Brien  
Swyddog Cefnogi Aelodau a Chraffu  
Cyngor Gwynedd  
Cae Penarlag  
DOLGELLAU  
Gwynedd. LL40 2YB

Erbyn / By:

09.05.16

**CYNHADLEDD RHEILFFORDD ARFORDIR Y CAMBRIAN**  
**CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE**

**Cwestiwn i TRENAU ARRIVA CYMRU CYF. / Question for ARRIVA TRAINS LTD**

**Cwestiwn i / Question for NETWORK RAIL**

1. A fydd yn bosib i chi glirio'r sbwriel o'r rheilffordd yn ardal Criccieth, yn enwedig ochr ddwyreiniol y dref – o Graig Ddu at Morannedd?

Is it possible to clear rubbish on the railway in the Criccieth area, especially on the eastern side of the town – from Black Rock to Morannedd?

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2. Mae yna nifer o goed a llwyni wedi gor-dyfu ar hyd y rheilffordd (ee ardal Criccieth). Beth yw cynlluniau Network Rail i dorri / rheoli'r tyfiant ac i gael gwared o llysiâu'r dail.

There are a lot of overgrown trees and shrubs along the railway (in the Criccieth area). What are Network Rail's plans to cut / manage the overgrowth and to get rid of the Japanese Knotweed?

**Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for LIAISON MEETING**

Oddiwrth / From: Y Cyng. Eirwyn Williams

I'w dychwelyd i / To be returned to:

**Glynda O'Brien**  
**Swyddog Cefnogi Aelodau a Chraffu**  
**Cyngor Gwynedd**  
**Cae Penarlag**  
**DOLGELLAU**  
**Gwynedd. LL40 2YB**

Erbyn / By:

**09.05.16**

**CYNHADLEDD RHEILFFORDD ARFORDIR Y CAMBRIAN**  
**CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE**

**Cwestiwn i TRENAU ARRIVA CYMRU CYF. / Question for ARRIVA TRAINS LTD**

**Cwestiwn i / Question for NETWORK RAIL**

Hoffem ddwyn eich sylw fod man ysbwriel yn broblem yn arbennig rhwng Penychain a Phwllheli.

We would like to draw your attention to the problem of litter especially between Penychain and Pwllheli.

**Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for LIAISON MEETING**

Oddiwrth / From: Cyngor Cymuned Llannor

I'w dychwelyd i / To be returned to:

**Glynda O'Brien**  
**Swyddog Cefnogi Aelodau a Chraffu**  
**Cyngor Gwynedd**  
**Cae Penarlag**  
**DOLGELLAU**  
**Gwynedd. LL40 2YB**

Erbyn / By:

**09.05.16**