



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

Date and Time

11.00 am, FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2016

Location

Y Ganolfan (ger yr Harbwr), Porthmadog, Gwynedd

Contact Point

Glynda O'Brien

(01341) 424301

glyndaobrien@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED: 04.11.16)

CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

Cyngor Gwynedd

Councillors: E. Selwyn Griffiths, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Anne Lloyd Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Dewi Owen, Angela Russell, Eirwyn Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams ac Owain Williams.

Ceredigion County Council

Awaiting Nomination

Powys County Council

Councillor J M Williams

OTHER MEMBERS:

Dafydd Elis-Thomas	Assembly Member for Dwyfor/Meirionnydd
Liz Saville Roberts	Member of Parliament for Dwyfor/Meirionnydd
Dave Thomas	Welsh Government
Claire Britton	Ffestiniog Railway
Cynghorydd Trevor Roberts	Shrewsbury/Aberystwyth Railway Liaison Committee
Tim Bell	Arriva Trains Wales
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
Rhydian Mason	Cambrian Line Partnership
David Crunkhorn	Arriva Trains Wales
Samuel Hadley	Network Rail
Carl Jones	Network Rail
Helen Lewis	Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn
Tudur O Williams	Ysgol Ardudwy
Pennaeth	Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor
Joyce Watson	AM for Mid and West Wales
Simon Thomas	AM for Mid and West Wales
Neil Hamilton	AM for Mid and West Wales
David Woodhouse	Aberdyfi and Tywyn Tourism
Tracy Parkinson	Talylyn Railway
Roger Goodhew	Shrewsbury/Aberystwyth Passenger Association
Sgt. Karl Anderson	British Transport Police
Rob Newman	British Transport Police
Inspector Mark Armstrong	North Wales Police
Councillor Delwyn Evans	Meirionnydd Access Group
Councillor Alun Wyn Evans	Meirionnydd Representative One Voice Wales
Councillor Trefor Jones	Dwyfor Representative One Voice Wales
David L Roberts	Snowdonia National Park

A G E N D A

1. **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. **URGENT MATTERS**

To consider any business which the Chairman decides is urgent.

4. **MINUTES**

5 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 May 2016.

(Copy enclosed)

5. **REPORT BY NETWORK RAIL**

11 – 12

To receive a report by Mr Sam Hadley and Mr Mark Peters, Network Rail.

(Copy enclosed)

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

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

(Copy to be circulated at the meeting)

7. **REPORT BY THE CAMBRIAN RAILWAY PARTNERSHIP OFFICER**

13 – 19

To receive a report by the Cambrian Railway Partnership Officer.

(Copy enclosed)

8. **REPORT BY BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE**

20

To receive a report by the British Transport Police.

(Copy enclosed)

9. **FORMAL QUESTIONS**

21 - 23

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

- (a) Appendix A – Question from Mr Roger Goodhew
- (b) Appendix B – Question from Porthmadog Town Council

(c) Appendix C – Letter from Llannor Community Council regarding concern about rubbish on the line between Pwllheli and Penychain.

(Copies enclosed)

10. MEMBERSHIP

To discuss a request received from the Regional officer for Strategic Transport, representing Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys Councils, to attend the Cambrian Coast Railway Committee.

CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

Minutes of a meeting of the Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference that took place at Y Ganolfan, Porthmadog on Friday, 20 May 2016 from 1.00pm until 2.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors E. Selwyn Griffiths, Anne Lloyd Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Angela A. Russell, Eirwyn Williams, Owain Williams (Gwynedd Council), Cllr Michael Williams (Powys CC), Liz Saville Roberts (Member of Parliament - Dwyfor/Meirionnydd), David Roberts (Snowdonia National Park Authority), Ben Davies (Arriva Trains Wales Ltd), Tracy Parkinson (Talyllyn Railway), Roger Goodhew (Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Rail Passenger Association), D. Woodhouse (Aberdyfi and Tywyn Tourism), Trefor Jones (Un Llais Cymru (Dwyfor)), Delwyn Evans (Meirionnydd Access Group), Sam Hadley, Sian Lewis (Network Rail), Llinos Roberts (Public and Community Transport Officer), Mererid Watt (Translator), Glynda O'Brien (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Dewi Owen, Gethin Williams, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas (Assembly Member - Dwyfor/Meirionnydd), Alun Wyn Evans (Un Llais Cymru (Meirionnydd)), Tudur Williams (Ysgol Ardudwy), Trevor Roberts (Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Railway Committee), Claire Britton (Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway), Rhydian Mason (Cambrian Railway Partnership), Rob Newman (British Transport Police).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Resolved: To re-elect Councillor Selwyn Griffiths as Chairman of this Committee for 2016/17.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Resolved: To re-elect Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams as Vice-chairman of this Committee for 2016/17.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

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

4. URGENT ITEMS

Setting the direction for a response form for the Wales and Borders Rail consultation

The Chairman reported that he had held an urgent meeting with the Vice-chair and the Chair of the Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Railway Committee to draw up and send a response to the recent consultation by the Assembly Government regarding the franchise. Attention was drawn to some of the main matters such as:

- More train coaches required
- More frequent and punctual trains
- An additional train on Sundays (and especially during holidays)

- Many passengers travelling on weekends
- A direct train from Pwllheli to Cardiff
- More parking spaces around some stations
- Resources at stations to buy tickets in advance
- Improve stations along the line

Resolved: To request that the Member Support Officer sends a copy of the response to Members of the Cambrian Railway Committee, for information.

5. MINUTES

Submitted: Minutes of the conference meeting held on 13 November 2015 subject to the following correction:

Item 6 (iv) – Bryn Llestair (Picnic Island) – correct the figure to 12,000 students ... instead of 1,000.

Resolved: To accept and approve the above minutes.

5.1 Matters arising from the minutes:

Bryn Llestair (Picnic Island)

Mr David Roberts took the opportunity to convey his gratitude to Network Rail deriving from positive feedback at a meeting with Rebecca Collins regarding land in Network Rail's ownership.

6. NETWORK RAIL REPORT

Sam Hadley, Public Affairs Manager and Sian Lewis, Commercial Scheme Sponsor (Network Rail), were welcomed to the meeting.

(A) Sam Hadley explained that he would be attending the meetings of this committee in future and Members were encouraged to contact him directly with any matters of concern. He responded to the formal questions submitted and noted as follows:

- (a) Talwrn Bach, Llanbedr level crossing - what is the latest regarding the installation of bars on the level crossing bearing in mind that transport increases over this crossing daily and there would be even more transport as the village hall is re-located (temporarily) to the airfield site.

Several members supported the same concerns as Councillor Annwen Hughes, local member for Llanbedr, and that it was a matter that had been raised by this committee for many years and that there was a real need to solve the matter once and for all.

In response, it was explained that a site inspection would be undertaken at the end of the year and it was promised that the Member Support Officer would be informed and that a comprehensive report would be submitted as well as a development timetable.

- (b) Litter on the railway in the Cricieth area, specifically on the eastern side of the town from Black Rock to Morannedd.
- (c) A number of trees and shrubs had overgrown along the railway - what were Network Rail's plans to cut/manage growth and to eradicate Japanese Knotweed?

In response, it was explained that Network Rail was getting rid of litter but there was a need to prioritise e.g. there was currently a huge clear-up project in Flintshire in light of the fact that the Urdd National Eisteddfod had been held there with the local authority providing skips and staff to assist.

In terms of a vegetation programme, if any growth was problematic it was confirmed that it would be prioritised. In terms of Japanese Knotweed, Network Rail had a legal responsibility to get rid of it if it spread on third party land. The local member was asked to provide details of specific locations where Japanese Knotweed was problematic and it would be followed up without delay.

(ch) Litter between Penychain and Pwllheli.

Again, the officer confirmed that he would deal with the above and that Network Rail was much more responsive in north Wales and any collaboration with local Councils was welcomed.

Resolved: (a) To thank the officer for the response and to ask him to follow-up without delay.

(b) That Councillor Eirwyn Williams provided details of specific locations where Japanese Knotweed was spreading on third party land so that the Operational Maintenance Co-ordinator could address the problem.

(B) A presentation in the form of a slide-show was received from Sian Lewis, Commercial Scheme Sponsor (Network Rail), on the background of the Barmouth Viaduct, the work so far, the scope of the work programme as well as risks and challenges associated with the repair work on an iconic listed (Grade II) viaduct.

Work undertaken to date was outlined namely:

- Site visits during summer 2015 to determine the current condition of the viaduct
- Production of a report of high level options for metallic and timber structures
- Meeting with stakeholders such as the Barmouth Viaduct Access Group (B-VAG)
- Meetings with CADW, Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park

It was noted that the work had been divided into two parts namely Urgent Work and Development Work and the scope of the work was outlined as follows:

Urgent Work:

- Development plan to undertake repairs on the steel structure
- Work included replacing rivets and other similar materials
- An initial design was expected by the end of May

- It was aimed for it to be submitted to CADW and local authorities in June / July
- Approval of initial design during the summer
- Detailed design to be developed in October 2016
- Commence on the site in Spring 2017

Development Work:

- Develop and produce an options report during the summer
- Submit it to CADW and local authorities in September 2016
- Further meetings with CADW and local authorities were anticipated during the Autumn to agree on a preferred option, and it was hoped that it would be held by the end of the year.
- Currently, it was estimated that the design would take a year or more due to the sensitive nature of the structure.
- Actual work on the site to follow sometime in 2018
- Each one of the above would depend on the initial design stages and on consultation with the stakeholders

In the context of the challenges faced, it was noted that these would include:

- Consulting with the stakeholders
- Permissions / conditions for a listed structure
- Ecological / environmental requirements
- Unsure of the duration of the work and how much disturbance it would cause on the railway

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions to the officer and the following points were highlighted:

- (a) An appeal was made by the Chairman and the Member of Parliament - Dwyfor/Meirionnydd to be realistic with the work programme bearing in mind the previous difficulties with the delay that derived from repair work on Briwet Bridge, Penrhyndeudraeth and it was hoped that lessons had been learnt from this. Also, the importance of collaboration with Arriva Trains Wales was noted and an appeal was made for Network Rail to do so.
- (b) Importance of informing the public of what is taking place
- (c) Assurance was requested that the footpath near the bridge would remain open and collaboration with Gwynedd Council was encouraged to this end.
- (d) The A496 was a very busy highway and dangerous in light of the number of accidents that had occurred recently and that a 40 m.p.h speed limit for the road should be considered. Should there be an accident on the road in question, this would mean having to divert passengers for approximately 60 miles.

Resolved: To accept, note and thank the officer for the presentation.

7. REPORT BY ARRIVA TRAINS WALES LTD

A verbal report by Mr Ben Davies, Arriva Trains Wales was received, who noted that

- there was an increase in the number of passengers who used the trains and that the problem was that they did not have enough trains;
- Wi-fi provision would be ensured on the Cambrian's number 150, 158 and 175 trains from September onwards and he drew attention to the fact that some places could not receive a connection but it was ensured that it would be possible to have a connection in the Stations;
- the Comedy Festival held in Machynlleth over the May Day Bank Holiday had been a success for the service and the community;
- the hard work of promoting and developing the service would continue for the next two years until the franchise would come to an end;
- the Orange Wallet Scheme for the needs of people with learning difficulties was very successful and that it was now being promoted in film form throughout the country;
- in terms of announcements through the medium of Welsh on the Cambrian railway, it was assured that the Welsh language was important to Arriva Trains Wales and that a bilingual service would be arranged for every Station in Wales. It was noted further that there were no problems in the Stations but problems had been experienced on trains due to the distance between stations. In response to an enquiry by the Chairman regarding the timetable to receive bilingual provision on the Cambrian railway, Mr Ben Davies explained that it would not be possible to provide a specific date but that he would follow the matter up and ensure that the language provision would be included in the new franchise. It was further noted that all Arriva Trains Wales conductors were Welsh-speakers;
- the lift would be completed in Machynlleth Station by 18 June 2016;
- in terms of the 8.00pm train from Machynlleth to Pwllheli not stopping at all Stations along the line, it was explained that the main problem was the time limit for train drivers to drive without a break (4 hours) and if they had to stop at the different stations, they would exceed the time permitted to drive. It was suggested that the best way forward was to discuss further with Mr Ken Skates, Assembly Member and an appeal was made for the Member of Parliament - Dwyfor/Meirionnydd and the Assembly Member - Dwyfor/Meirionnydd to pursue the matter as well;
- discussions continued with Gwynedd Council regarding the Tourist Information Centre in Barmouth, as the Council was eager to close it and it currently sold tickets for Arriva Trains Wales for the Cambrian railway;
- a new trainline "app" for mobile phones was available to order tickets - "Arriva Train Tickets";
- in terms of low platforms, Arriva Trains Wales had undertaken work to repair 27 of them and that more required work;

Resolved: To accept and note the report.

(b) To send a letter of congratulations to Ken Skates, Assembly Member - Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, Welsh Government and to invite him to attend a meeting of this Committee in future.

8. REPORT BY THE CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS PARTNERSHIP OFFICER

In the absence of the Cambrian Railways Partnership Officer, his report was submitted to the Committee for information, which outlined activities / announcements that had been held / made by him since the previous meeting.

The Chairman noted that the Railway would be celebrating 150 years in 2017 and it was hoped that activities would be arranged for the celebration.

Resolved: To accept and note the report.

9. REPORT BY THE BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

In the absence of PC Rob Newman, his report was submitted to the Committee for information, which noted a decline in most crimes on the Cambrian Coast line.

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

10. FORMAL QUESTIONS

Four formal written questions had been submitted by Members of the Conference and the Community Council and it was noted that the relevant officers had addressed these during their presentations.

Resolved: To accept and note the above.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

A statement by Dyffryn Ardudwy and Talybont Community Council was submitted which noted that they did not support the re-opening of the railway from Afonwen to Bangor because of the estimated cost of approximately £50 million which could be better spent on improving roads in the Meirionnydd area.

CHAIRMAN

Report to the Cambrian Coast Line Conference

NEW ROUTE MANAGING DIRECTOR APPOINTED

In August Andy Thomas joined Network Rail as the new Wales Route Managing Director.

Born and bred in Pembrokeshire, Andy has enjoyed a wide-ranging international career in rail, transport and industry.

This has included senior roles at Transport for New South Wales, Transport for London, and most recently as managing director of the Mass Transit Metro in Hyderabad, India.

Andy has made it clear that his priority is to ensure the Wales Route is delivering on the priorities of elected representatives and the communities they represent.

Working with our industry partners Andy wants to ensure that we are delivering for passengers and our lineside neighbours.

There is a major deepening of devolution taking place within Network Rail that will see many more decisions taken at route level.

As part of that process, and given his background, Andy is particularly keen to ensure the railway and the wider transport sector, delivers for rural communities in Wales, as well as our major towns and cities.



Andy Thomas, the new Wales route managing director



The iconic Barmouth viaduct was temporarily closed to rail passengers after a fire last month

BARMOUTH VIADUCT REOPENS AFTER FIRE

As the conference will be aware, services on the Cambrian Coast line were disrupted last month following the closure of the Barmouth Viaduct due to a fire.

The line between Barmouth and Tywyn was closed between Tuesday 4 October and Monday 10 October with a rail replacement bus service in operation.

Network Rail engineers worked tirelessly to reopen the line after a fire caused localised damage to one of the viaduct spans.

Some remedial works will continue to take place over the coming weeks, with work taking place overnight and at weekends when trains aren't scheduled to run.

The pedestrian walkway has not been affected by the fire and will remain open for the duration of the work.

Mark Peters, Asset Engineer, is attending on the 11th November to present to the Cambrian Coast line Conference and plans to talk in more detail around Network Rail's response to the fire, as well as updating the conference on our future plans for this iconic structure.



LEVEL CROSSINGS UPDATE

As confirmed following the last meeting, we are planning to replace Talwrn Bach level crossing, which is currently an ACOL crossing (Automatic open crossing, locally monitored) and we have plans to deliver a complete renewal. Once this work has been completed the crossing will be an ABCL (Automatic barrier crossing, locally monitored).

We are currently aiming to deliver the work at Talwrn Bach in 2018 as part of a wider package of level crossing renewals we are delivering in the Porthmadog area. As part of this project we are also renewing Porthmadog TMOB crossing (Traincrew operated barriers) with a newer TMOB crossing with additional standing lights to protect pedestrians.

We are also undertaking a 'like for like' renewal of Ynyslas AHBC (Automatic half barrier crossing) with standing lights for pedestrians and cameras to record motorists that run red lights. Aberleri AHBC is also being renewed like for like with standing red lights for improved pedestrian safety.



Talwrn Bach level crossing

COMMUNITY RAIL

Community Rail involves local people in the development and promotion of local and rural routes, services and stations. It allows communities to get directly involved improving the railway environment through use of redundant buildings, provision of additional services such as cafes and the improvement of railway land.

In most respects, community rail routes are no different from the rest of the railway. They remain connected to the national rail network. Train Operating Companies run trains and stations. Network Rail



Community Rail: making a difference at Tywyn Station

maintains the track, signals, bridges and tunnels.

What sets them apart is their Rail Partnerships, which work with the rail industry and local authorities to help market the line and to improve stations, train services, bus links and access, all of which help to increase passenger numbers.

The Cambrian line is well represented when it comes to community rail which is fantastic for our passengers and communities along the line who see an already picturesque route further enhanced by the hard work of volunteers.

Network Rail's work to maintain the network is assisted greatly by these schemes and provides Network Rail with more passenger focused network.

Current schemes along the Cambrian Coast line include: Tywyn, Tywyn station, Penychain and Criccieth (pictured above). Our customer manager, Ian Messner, has asked me to pass on thanks to those licence holders who took part in the 2016 Community Rail survey.

Ian is developing a series of actions in order to further enhance the relationship between Network Rail and our community rail partnerships in the future.

Ian would also welcome suggestions in terms of new community rail schemes along the Cambrian Coast line and be contacted via: ian.messner@networkrail.co.uk.



LDO's report October 2016 for Cambrian Coast Conference

Shopmobility at Aberystwyth

Progress has recommenced on this project and I have met recently with Dawn Toland from the Care Society to confirm next steps. We intend to have the 'meet and greet' arrangement in place within weeks. In that time signage has to be organised as well as a 'launch' press release which I hope that we can work with both the Care Society and Arriva Trains Wales to promote this useful partnership.

Floral Display at Aberystwyth Station

Thanks to support from Aberystwyth Town Council, Newman's Garden Centre, and the Aberystwyth Lyons, students from Coleg Ceredigion have been able to add serious colour to the station which many passengers and customers of Wetherspoons, Craft, and the Indian restaurant have commented on. Dai (booking office) at the station has taken the responsibility of watering and caring for the displays during Coleg Ceredigion's summer holidays and the displays are still looking excellent.

A Helping Hand – film project and follow up:

I am delighted to have been approached by Paul Maynard MP – the DfT Minister for Rail requesting a meeting about our work surrounding 'A Helping Hand' and I am currently liaising with his officials to secure a date in the near future. In addition, Liz Saville Roberts MP for Meirionnydd is also championing our film at Westminster and we still intend to hold a special function there hopefully before the end of this calendar year.

Library initiative

As a new part of the Confident Traveller Project a new initiative has been developed to forge closer links with schools and libraries, trialed for the first time in June. Pupils from Ysgol Tan Y Castell (Harlech) were taken by train to Porthmadog, accompanied by teachers and representatives from the CRP and ATW to attend a library session organised by Gwynedd Council. Pupils were given an introduction to the library, and returned to school by train with freshly borrowed books as part of a wider initiative to encourage children and young people to make use of libraries.

Arriva UK plc Society & Communities Event

This week Phil Caldwell and I were invited to hold a presentation on our work surrounding the Confident Traveller Project at an Arriva UK Society and Communities event. This is another example of how the work of the Cambrian Railways Partnership is being recognised nationally as an innovative partnership working successfully with the Train Operating Company.

Caersws community sign / Mid Wales Arts Centre

I have attended a meeting with representatives from Caersws Community Council and Mid Wales Arts to look at producing a new station sign for Caersws, potentially coupled up with a wider community project, possibly with support from CRP. A further meeting is to be held soon now that the school term has begun.

ACORP Awards:

We were successful in attaining a second overall prize in the 'small projects' category for the station displays based on the work surrounding the Confident Traveller Project where schoolchildren's own safety posters are displayed at their local stations on the Cambrian Coast line. The poster cases were funded by the Cambrian Railways Partnership.

New 'promotional' film

Filming has begun on a new promotional film for the Cambrian which we will use on social media, and our website. It will be made available to anyone who wishes to use it and features at its core the scenery and a flavour of what's to see and do in the Cambrian lines region. The focus of the film is not necessarily the train, but rather where the train can take you to – featuring coastal and in-land scenes and has been conceived to ensure it has synergy with Visit Wales themes for the next 2 years as a minimum (although it will have a useable shelf life for far longer). It has not been designed to compete with 'high brow' promotional campaigns, but is being produced very much with social media and online use in mind.

Safe Crossings Campaign:

Based on our successful film expertise and award winning portfolio(!) we are currently embarking on a new joint project with Network Rail to address the need for an information resource on correct and appropriate safe use of (mainly) occupational crossings, of which there are a great many on the Cambrian lines and indeed in most rural areas of the UK. An initial meeting has already been held with representatives from ATW and Network Rail to discuss the way forward, and I have also spoken at length with the Director of Wales YFC (Young Farmers' Clubs) who has expressed an interest in getting their movement involved in terms of assisting with the rollout of the campaign.

Publications

Two new publications are soon to be in production aimed at tourism and leisure walking markets. An all-new Cambrian Trailways based on walks on the Cambrian Coast initially – tied closely to the Wales Coastal Path network is currently being researched.

'Connections 2' will also be produced over the Winter months ready for the spring.

We are also delighted that the 'Big Trains meets Little Train' booklet has been successfully launched by the Great Little Trains of Wales team which includes details about all the little trains of Wales and also includes a specific section on the Cambrian which I worked on with the editors and publishers. The book was launched at Kings Cross Station earlier in the

Summer and was produced thanks to a DfT funding award. The front cover of the book features a shot of Penhelyg Station, and the rear cover has a shot of an ATW 158 unit crossing the Mawddach estuary – both Cambrian.

Aberystwyth University Freshers' Fair

Next week the Aberystwyth University Freshers' Fair is held over two days and we will be promoting the Cambrian Lines to students as usual sharing our stand and costs with Traveline Cymru.

Community Rail Wales

Working alongside our colleagues in the other CRP's in the Wales & Borders Franchise area we have jointly released a revamped 'No Car, No Problem' publication in time for the Shrewsbury Flower Show where myself and colleagues from the other lines spent a busy few days promoting rail breaks in Wales and the borders. This 2-day event typically sees a visitor count of circa 60,000 and is ideally placed to promote our lines (considering Shrewsbury's geographical significance in rail terms). Keeping a record over the event of where most people's enquiries were aimed at showed that the Heart of Wales, closely followed by the Cambrian lines were by far the most enquired about.

A report on this event has been prepared jointly by the Community Rail Wales team for Welsh Government (attached).

Welsh Government Community Rail Capital Fund Grant applications

We will be making an application to the Welsh Government Community Rail Capital Fund Grant scheme and had intended originally to make a bid to contribute towards an ambitious project to create an interchange and Machynlleth station that would be more user friendly in terms of allowing bus/coach access and also almost double the number of parking spaces at the station. Unfortunately, we are not yet at a stage where we can confidently make a bid due to delays in results of ground surveys which could have a significant effect on overall costs.

We are therefore hopeful that the capital grant scheme will be continued into 2017-2018 which will provide us with a further opportunity to bid for this project.

However, we intend to submit bids for other worthwhile proposals including additional station shelters for Welshpool, Dovey Junction, and a replacement of an existing (somewhat weather worn) shelter at Llanaber. Bids are to be submitted by the end of September, and I am currently in liaison with ATW and Welsh Government on this.

Rhydian Mason

Rail Development Officer

Cambrian Railways Partnership

rhydian.mason2@ceredigion.gov.uk

23/09/16

REPORT ON COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIPS OF WALES & THE BORDERS SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW EXHIBIT AUGUST 2016

In working together the Community Rail Officers of Wales & the Borders plan several joint events, usually at stations as part of other national events such as Community Rail in The City which this year we were fortunate to be offered A free space at Birmingham New Street Station. However from past experience the annual Shrewsbury Flower Show was also selected for a joint promotion for several factors:

- It typically had an attendance of c60,000 visitors over the two days
- It was accessible to all the Partnership officers who would have to staff the stand.
- They offered covered stands.
- It was more than just a flower show, with a host of events, trade stands etc attracting a huge range of visitors.
- From past experience many visitors made Shrewsbury their based for the week before or after and were looking for information on days out. Shrewsbury as a rail hub was a great benefit and with a wide range of different places to visit.
- All Partnerships could relate to the benefit of the promotional opportunity, something a sole Partnership would be unable to afford or resource and the fact that by combining resources it was possible.
-

The event was used to promote ‘Scenic Wales & Borders by Rail ‘No car, no problem’, the map which was developed over the years for use at such events. The bilingual map was revised and reprinted for the event. A wide range of other leaflets and individual display banners were also promoted and local and wider area tourism brochures available together with timetables. Heritage railways are also known to be popular with visitors so a range of their leaflets were on display. The Show also attracted the Ffestiniog Railway complete with loco and track and we liaised with them and shared the promotional literature and both attractions sign posted visitors to the other stand when appropriate.

The stand was set up by 3 officers in advance on Thurs 11th August and taken down on Sunday 14th as no vehicles are allowed on the showground outside these times. The actual show dates were 12th and 13th. Staffing of the stand was provided on a ‘shift’ basis by Sheila Dee, Rhydian Mason, Gill Wright, Melanie Lawson and David Edwards, with valuable extra help provided by Geraint Morgan (Friday) from Arriva Trains Wales who also assisted with portable display stands and Moira Davidson (Saturday).

1000 small, packaged and labelled Welsh cakes were taken, produced locally at a special rate by a small business in Llangollen. They were for use as giveaways and to thank visitors for coming to the stand: all of them were distributed, with appreciative comments about Wales frequently made by recipients.

The weather was good, though breezy, and whilst final numbers attending the show are not yet available they are expected to be in the region of 60,000 but feedback indicates that the figure is expected to be higher than the previous year.

We had available an ipad based questionnaire kindly designed and produced for us from Conwy Council via Melanie in an attempt to record the demographic characteristics of visitors to the stand, but this proved impossible given the numbers involved and their turnover. Anecdotally, most visitors were middle aged or over, and there was a slight predominance of females though many couples and family groups were in evidence. Most were from the wider Midlands area, plus others from (e.g.) West Wales, Manchester, and Liverpool. Many were local but visitors were also well represented.

A record was kept of the number of visitors taking away 'Scenic Wales & Borders' maps, and whether additional interest was expressed in particular transport and tourism topics.

The results of visitors to the stand over the two days were as follows:

Interest Area :	Numbers
Scenic Wales & Borders	452
Cambrian	113
Conwy Valley	53
Heart Of Wales Line	119
Chester-Shrewsbury	38
Borderlands Line	2
North Wales Coast	30
Other including Heritage, regional guides, timetables etc	142
Total	949

Overall comments

A number of visitors commented favourably on the fact that we were present and promoting all the railways as well as highlighting the long distance bus services and supported the idea of promoting tourism using public transport. The Scenic Wales & Borders map yet again was very popular showing as it does the entire network with more detail on this new version on the border counties and the access to and from the English cities and the airports.

Other comments included the following:

- specific travel queries ('what train do I get for xxxx')
- can I use my English bus pass in Wales?
- how do I find out about accommodation?
- what steam trains are available to travel on?
- how easy is it to get to the beaches by rail from Shrewsbury?

- I'm staying in Shrewsbury this week where can I visit on the train?
- how frequent are the services to x?

This report will be circulated to funding partners to assist in the planning of 2017 events that can be undertaken jointly.

ENDS

Agenda Item 8

Report to Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Committee

Autumn 2016

This year has shown a further decrease in all types of offences dealt with by British Transport Police on the Cambrian Coast line.

Since April this year, a significantly lower number of reports of level crossing misuse have resulted in only five vehicle drivers being dealt with for these offences. Of these, four were for the offence of Careless Driving, three of which were at Talwrn Bach level crossing at Llanbedr. The other was at Harlech Morfa crossing which, since the road markings on approach to the crossing were repainted earlier in the summer, has not had a single report of misuse.

Instances of Anti-social behaviour have also been lower this year. One significant instance occurred at the end of March when a group of very drunk males boarded a train at Barmouth to travel to Pwllheli. Their behaviour caused two of them to be ejected from the train at Llanbedr, and a further two at Porthmadog. As a direct result of the incident two members of the group received Police Cautions for Public Order Offences. Two others are due to appear in court in relation to Public Decency offences. The Conductor involved in this incident was very upset by the behaviour she had to deal with.

A male from the Telford area is due to appear in court at the beginning of November after he assaulted a member of the On-board cleaning team, and was verbally abusive to a Conductor, at Machynlleth in August.

A further male is also currently on Police Bail in relation to a variety of offences that occurred in several parts of the UK and to an allegation of assault against a Conductor at Machynlleth, who was assisting police as he tried to make his escape from the area.

BTP are working closely with Arriva Trains Wales to provide enhanced patrols on board services throughout the Cambrian line in the run up to Christmas, when we appreciate that trains will be busier with party-goers and other revellers.

British Transport Police wish to re-assure all passengers and Train Crew that we will deal with instances of anti-social behaviour on trains and stations in a robust manner and will put offenders before the courts if necessary.

BTP can be contacted 24 hours a day on Freephone 0800-405040 or on our Text service at 61016.

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

Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for LIAISON MEETING

Is the committee satisfied that plans are in place for the provision of sufficient rolling stock to meet passenger demands during the period of the new franchise for the Wales & Borders service?

This franchise could be 10 or 15 years in length commencing circa 2020.

I'w dychwelyd i / To be returned to:

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

Erbyn / By:

21.10.16
Page 21

CYNHADLEDD RHEILFFORDD ARFORDIR Y CAMBRIAN
CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

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

Pam nad oes cyhoeddiadau yn cael eu gwneud yn y Gymraeg neu o leiaf yn ddwyieithog ym mhob gorsaf ar y lein ? Pryderir yn fawr nad oes blaenoriaeth yn cael ei roi i'r Gymraeg.

Why are there no Welsh or at least bilingual announcements in each Station on the railway line?
It is of great concern that the Welsh language is not given priority.

Cwestiwn i / Question for NETWORK RAIL

Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for LIAISON MEETING

Oddiwrth / From: CYNGOR TREF PORTHMADOG

.....

I'w dychwelyd i / To be returned to: Glynda O'Brien
Swyddog Cefnogi Aelodau
Cyngor Gwynedd
Cae Penarlag
DOLGELLAU
Gwynedd. LL40 2YB

Erbyn / By: 21.10.16

LLANNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk: Haydn Jones, Bryn y Felin, Penrallt, Pwllheli, LL53 5UE

Tel No: 01758-614291

12 July 2016

Cllr. Trefor Jones
Talar Deg
CHWILOG
Pwllheli
Gwynedd

Dear Councillor

RE: CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

Thank you for raising Llannor Community Council's concerns in the above Conference held recently.

I refer to Sam Hadley's, Public Affairs Officer with Network Rail, response which was discussed in the Community Council's July meeting.

The Members do not accept that all the rubbish is accruing from the Recycling Centre Pwllheli since it is all the way from Pwllheli to Penychain.

The Members would be grateful to receive confirmation of the steps to be taken by Network Rail to resolve the situation.

Yours sincerely

Haydn Jones
Clerk