**Fforwm Rhanbarthol TrC – Gogledd a Canolbarth Cymru TfW Regional Forum – North and Mid Wales**

**16 September 2021**



**Adroddiad o’r cyfarfod**

**Meeting report**

North and Mid Wales Regional Stakeholder Forum

The forum met on the 16th of September 2021, 10:00 – 12:00

**Attendees**

**Forum Members**

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| Alex Woodall | Strategic Rail Officer, Transport for Greater Manchester |
| Andrew Saunders | Surface Access Strategy Manager, Manchester Airport |
| Ann Elias | Strategic Transport Officer, Growing Mid Wales Partnership-Strategic Transport |
| Bryn Jones | Head of Knowledge Exchange Research, Innovation and Impact Office |
| Claire Williams | Cambrian Railway Partnership Development Officer |
| David Dawkins | Policy Transport Planner, Community Transport Association |
| David Jones | Rail Development Manager, Liverpool City Region |
| Emma Bingham | Development Officer Wales Community Transport Association |
| Hugh Evans | Head of Community Rail, TfW |
| Iwan Cadwaladr | Ynys Mon County Council |
| Jamie Sant | Community Rail Officer, Wrexham Bidston Line |
| Kelly Hodder | Transport Officer, Denbighshire Council |
| Melanie Lawton | Community Rail Manager, North TfW |
| Peter Daniels | Transport Officer, Denbighshire Council |
| Val Hawkins | Chief Executive MWT Cymru Mid Wales Tourism |

**Speakers**

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| Lewis Brencher | Director of Communication and Engagement, TFW | 10:05-10:20  11:45 – 11:55 |
| Kate Clark  Andy Holder  Mat Howells | Policy Advisor, TFW  Contractor, TFW  Senior Transport Modeller, TFW | 10:20-11:00 |
| Gail Davies | Welsh Government | 11:00 – 11:30 |
| Dafydd Williams | Rail Performance Manager | 11:30 – 11:45 |

**Apologies**

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| Andrew Mytton | Public Transport Officer, Wrexham County Council |
| Ceri Hansom | Integrated Transport Unit Manager, Flintshire Council |
| Ceri Taylor | Public Affairs Manager TfW |
| Chris Wilson | Transportation Policy and Strategy Manager, Ceredigion Council |
| Claire Owen | Membership and Marketing Manager, Mid Wales Tourism |
| David Beer | Senior Manager Wales, Transport Focus |
| Dave Whall | Stakeholder Manager, Stena Line |
| Dylan Gallanders | Support and Executive Engagement, Community Transport Association |
| Emma Thomas | CTA Development Officer for North Wales |
| Gerard Rhodes | Strategic Transport Service, Cheshire West and Chester Council |
| Geraint Morgan | Community Rail Manager, South TfW |
| Iwan Prys-Jones | Programme Manager, North Wales Economic Board |
| Jim Jones | North Wales Tourism and Mersey Dee Biz Council |
| Karen Williams | Community Rail Officer Conwy Valley and North West Wales Coast |
| Mark Barton | Stakeholder Manager, Irish Ferries |
| Michelle Clarke | Project Co-ordinator NW, Community Transport Association |
| Michelle Roles | Stakeholder Manager Wales, Transport Focus |
| Mike Learmond | Senior Development Manager, Wales, FSB |
| Nick Smith | Regional Growth Manager, Avanti West Coast |
| Owain Roberts | Regional Stakeholder Manager, Northern Rail |
| Paul Williamson | JobSense Specialist Employment Advisor RNID |
| Prof Paul Spencer | Head of College (College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering) Bangor University |
| Sean Croshaw | Strategic Rail Manager, Transport for Greater Manchester |
| Rhian Wyn Williams | Transport Officer, Gwynedd County Council |
| Robin Tudor | Head of PR and Communications, Liverpool Airport |
| Steph Smith | Senior Public & Community Transport Officer, Conwy Council |
| Tony Caine | Traffic and Travel Manager, Powys County Council ( |
| Vincent Goodwin | Travel Officer, Powys County Council |

**Note from the Chair, Lowri Joyce**

Thank you, once again to everyone who attended and contributed to our regional forum. Your feedback is valued and helps us to inform our future plans and seek input about our current status. Not only does our forum provide an opportunity for two way dialogue, it enables us to ensure our stakeholders are informed across our transport network.

**Agenda**

1. **Introduction & Apologies**

Lowri Joyce welcomed the forum members to the sixth meeting of the North and Mid Wales regional Forum. Lowri introduced the format of the meeting, including an update on the current Travel Safer messaging and Welsh Government rules still in place across Wales in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. **Question Time with the Director of Communications and Engagement, Transport for Wales**

Lowri introduced Lewis Brencher who gave an overview on compliance of face coverings on public transport. Lewis reported a decline in compliance to around 75 – 80% and the options that TfW are considering improving the wearing of face coverings. These include working with British Transport Police and being creative with messaging on board trains.

Claire Williams raised an issue she faced with face covering compliance when travelling by train on the Cambrian line.

Lewis responded to a question in the chat from David Dawkins about Community Transport and stated that TfW would like to further explore the way in which the organisation can support Community Transport.

Ann Elias raised a question about the new timetable on the Cambrian Line and how decisions were made on which trains to run. Lewis responded that there are parts of the network that are not fully running and that this is dependent on rolling stock and that difficult decisions were made based on passenger numbers and driver availability. TfW are committed to doing everything they can to bring services back. Ann responded that the Cambrian line has one of the heaviest usages based on recently released passenger numbers. Ann asked TfW to consider fully reinstating the Cambrian line as soon as possible. Ann also queried the turnaround at Shrewsbury. Lewis responded that commuter numbers are down, but that tourism is up, and that leisure travel is more important than ever and needs to be looked at. Lewis added that there was a further item later in the agenda on timetabling.

1. **National Transport Delivery Plan – Next Steps**

Kate Clark. Government Advisor, TfW introduced the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) which links into the UK transport appraisal. WelTAG looks at how we spend and deliver public transport in Wales and analyses how planning is considered. The Welsh Government (WG) have just published Llwybr Newydd – The Welsh Transport Strategy. The plan looks at how WG can deliver sustainable and effective travel in Wales and links into the Future Generations Act’s wellbeing goals and ambitions. Kate Clark is currently drafting the new WelTAG before it goes out to consultation and is linking it to Llwybr Newydd.

Andy Holder, TfW Contractor, gave an overview ofthe National Transport Delivery Planand its development in Wales. The plan will be a key guide on funding and delivering transport in Wales. The plan will incorporate various strategies such as the upcoming Bus Plan 2022 and Net Zero Wales. A 4-month consultation will take place soon.

Mat Howells, Senior Transport Modeller, TfW, outlined that WG are in the process of developing a matrix for monitoring and evaluating transport delivery. The methodology and matrix will be published in the Autumn and a baseline report is planned for early 2022.

David Dawkins asked about Llwbyr Newydd's mini-plan for the Third Sector: CTA Wales has been developing proposals for the plans' priorities and will be making representations to unlock the third sector potential. Can WelTAG be developed to accommodate the needs of this sector which is growing at a time when other sectors have been contracting? Kate responded that WelTAG can be used for many projects but that she would be in contact with David to look at how the plans can develop. Ann Elias commented that a balance needs to be found between collecting and analysing data and service delivery. Mat confirmed that there is an integrated way of working to ensure that this the monitoring and evaluation is manageable. Val Hawkins commented that all the strategies need to consider cross border working. Andy Holder confirmed that they focus on where customers travel to and from and that borders, whilst there, do not defer from the work that they do. DfT were also engaged with during the drafting of the strategy and this work is ongoing.

1. **Bws Cymru – The Welsh Government’s 5 year Plan for Buses in Wales**

Gill Davies, Welsh Government, gave an overview of the Bus Plan which is currently in the consultation phase. Once published it will form a 5-year plan for bus services in Wales. The new plan will look at the ongoing reform of bus services with WG moving from local delivery services to regional services. The aim is to launch the plan in Winter 2021/22.

David Dawkins stated that the Community transport as a sector has been growing in Wales and has sustained passenger growth. It is comparatively under-developed by UK standards though and Llwbyr Newydd's mini-plan provides the opportunity to un-lock the potential. Would you like to see step proposals to be considered for Bws Cymru? Gill responded that the focus is Bus and community transport and there has been conversations to ensure that views are heard.

Peter Daniels questioned the bus emergency scheme due to end July 2022, stating that there may be a gap until Bws Cymru starts and were there any contingency plans to address this gap. Gill responded that the Bws Cymru plan will cover that period.

Val Hawkins raised the need to showcase the benefits of public transport, fares and capacity. Ann Elias stated that the public need to be shown how to use the new services and to properly engage in behavioural change.

1. **Rail Service Update**

Dafydd Williams, Rail Performance Manager, gave a rail service update with consideration to the new timetable for Sept 2021 and December 2021. Services are currently at 85% of 2019 provision in keeping with other UK operators. Restricted pandemic services and issues with rolling stock and driver availability has affected services, however stations that were closed have now been opened in N Wales and after the blockade, rail services should be back to normal, and stations reopened on the Cambrian line. TfW are focused on lifting the timetable next Summer to reflect the increase in leisure travel.

Claire Williams queried how the demand for service was calculated and the decision on which services to run. Dafydd stated that information was gathered in several ways but that unfortunately even if uplift was needed there might not be enough rolling stock. Looking forward to 2022 there will be a more established service based on lesson learnt from Summer 2021. Claire also queried what stakeholder engagement had taken place, details were given of stakeholder groups and timetable events. Ann Elias asked if there was the opportunity to be consulted on draft timetables. Dafydd stated that over the last 2 years quick changes have been needed which unfortunately didn’t leave time for consultation but that going forward once timetabling isn’t so fluid there will be opportunity for consultation.

1. **Demand Recovery - Lewis Brencher, Director of Communications and Engagement**

Lewis Brencher, Director of Communications and Engagement (TfW) discussed the new TfW campaign to promote multimodal public transport. ‘The Real Social Network’ is to respond to the longer-term plan around modal shift and decreasing carbon emissions as well as increasing service users post pandemic and driving behavioural change. Lewis showed the proposed TV campaign to the group – a 60-second advert to be shown November onwards.

1. **AOB**

None

**Actions**

The actions below were raised during the forum and will be addressed prior to the next Regional Forum where possible.

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| **Action** | **What will be done?** |
| Presentations to be shared with forum members | Presentations will be attached to the diary marker |

## Forum digital chat highlights

Highlights of the conversation within the chat function of the Forum were:

* Can I just add that face coverings is a huge issue on buses too. I was a bus driver before taking up this post so I have hands on experience of passengers not willing to comply. I feel that fines and spot checks from BTP are the only way passengers will begin to comply.
* [Restoring Barmouth Viaduct - Network Rail](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/wales/restoring-barmouth-viaduct/)
* Really like the TV campaign...very inclusive.
* Video looks good. This ties in well with our #realmidwales campaign
* <https://gov.wales/proposal-reduce-speed-limit-20mph-residential-streets>
* [Transport for Wales launch public survey (tfw.wales)](https://news.tfw.wales/news/transport-for-wales-launch-public-survey-1)

## Next Regional Stakeholder Forum

The next North and Mid Wales Regional Stakeholder Forum is scheduled for November/December 2021