**Fforwm Rhanddeiliaid Rhanbarthol Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru**

**Mid and West Wales Regional Stakeholder Forum**

**28th September 2022**



**Adroddiad o’r cyfarfod**

**Meeting report**

Mid and West Wales Regional Stakeholder Forum

The forum met on the 29th September 2022, 11:00am – 12:00pm (Microsoft Teams)

**Attendees**

**Forum Members**

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| Ann Elias  | Ceredigion County Council  |  |
| Chloe Lewis | Pembrokeshire County Council  |  |
| Emma Bingham  | Community Transport Association (Wales)  |  |
| Hatti Woakes  | North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum  |  |
| Julie Lewis  | Coleg Sir Gar  |  |
| Michelle Roles  | Transport Focus  |  |
| Philip Mcdonnell (PM) | Swansea Environmental Forum and Low Carbon Swansea Bay  |  |
| Val Hawkins  | Mid Wales Tourism  |  |
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**Transport for Wales**

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| Alex Chung (AC) | Community Engagement Officer (Metro Central & Bay)  |  |
| Dafydd Williams  | Senior Service Specification Manager  |  |
| Lewis Brencher  | Communications and Engagement Director  |  |
| Mattew Payn (MP) | Assistant Project Manager  |  |
| Tomos Davies (TD) (Chair)  | Community Engagement Officer (Mid & West Wales)  |  |
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**Welsh Government**

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**Apologies**

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**Note from the Chair, {ins manager name}**

*“I am very pleased that the Forum session went very well. Can I thank members who were able to attend for your time and contributions and also the presenters who engaged us across a range of topics. We had useful discussions of opportunities and key challenges for the future including the changed model for rail operations and rebuilding confidence in public transport. Please can I encourage your continuing contributions to these topics – time in the session is quite short and also to include those not able to join us; to benefit from the panel’s wide experience and advice to support Transport for Wales to plan during this important time.”*

**Agenda**

1. **Prioritising Transport through Partnership Projects in Swansea Bay.**

Philip Mcdonnell, Coordinator for Swansea Environmental Forum, and Low Carban Swansea Bay.

Tomos Davies (TD) introduced and invited Philip Mcdonnell, Coordinator for Swansea Environmental Forum, and Low Carban Swansea Bay, to deliver a presentation on prioritising transport through partnership projects in Swansea Bay.

Philip firstly explained the aims of the Swansea Environmental Forum. It was set up in 1985 with the mission to promote and facilitate environmental sustainability in Swansea. Working with a range of different bodies from Public, Voluntary and local individuals. Identified that key aspects of Swansea Environmental Forum were:

* Projects undertaken are from a collaborative and partnership way of working
* Influence on policy and action to drive behaviour change through community projects

Philip listed some of the achievements to date that the forum had done:

* Setting-up the Environmental Centre Community Hub. Which has existed for 25 years, which brings organisations and public together to interact.
* Swansea Environmental Strategy
* Low Carbon Swansea Bay Network, which brings organisation together to share knowledge and their commitment to net zero targets
* Swansea Community Green Spaces Project
* Delivery of the environmental objective in the Swansea wellbeing plan

Through the presentation Philip went onto the link that Swansea Environmental forum had with Transport for Wales (TfW). He explained that there were four key workstreams of which three of them were heavy linked to supporting existing partners such as well as engaging with organisations and the local public. It was expressed that major and fourth key work stream was called ‘Targeting Transport’. Within that work stream there were three projects to facilitate:

* Moving Forward Together: Regional Transport Conference
* Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter
* Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions

Philip quickly addressed that due to the covid-19 pandemic it has taken impact on their progress to roll out these partnership projects.

Firstly, talking about ‘Regional Transport Conference’ which organised a two-day event in February 2021 attend by 150 participants with organisations; 4theRegion CIC, Natural Resources Wales & South West Wales Connect (rail partnership). The event aim was centred around discussing and exploring ley issues and opportunities around transport. Of which resulted in a manifesto that highlighted a range of actions that could be taken by stakeholders from across different sectors. Some those manifesto actions were:

* Make Transport Accessible to All
* Collaborate & Integrate
* Focus More of Safety and Comfort

Secondly, explaining the ‘Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter’ established as a collaboration with Public Health Wales, Swansea University & Low Carbon Swansea Bay. This was a commitment from organisations to make sustainable choices linking to behaviour change to the environment. Since conception 14 signatories ranging from public to voluntary sectors with 17 commitments for two years with quarterly reporting.

Lastly, PM mentioned ‘Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions’. A project in collaboration with Swansea Council for Voluntary Services & 4the Region funded by CRF from National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Aim of the project is to have a programme of activities to strengthen sustainable transport & active travel in Swansea, with a focus on what communities can do for themselves:

* Community consultation & engagement events
* Pilot projects – funding and mentoring
* Focus groups & connections
* Portfolio of resources – guides, case studies
* Rout map for future action

PM concluded his presentation by showing how participants could find out more information about the projects at Swansea Environmental Forum and thanked everyone for their attention.

TD thanks PM for his presentation and opened the session for questions.

TD asked Pm if the work that the forum is being undertaken in Swansea could be replicate across the rest of Wales.

PM responded that certainly projects could be replicated, and that Swansea was by no means the first to implement. Subsequently PM went onto mention other projects happening across Wales, both south and north.

Emma Bingham (CTA), added to PM presentation and the work that has been going on in Swansea. However, it was identified that community transport links in Swansea was not on the same level compared to other parts of Wales. That projects set up by forum will allow for insights into filling gaps that help us towards a sustainable transport network in Swansea.

No further questions or points were raised towards PM presentation.

1. **Update Active Travel Class 153.**

Mattew Payn, Assistant Project Manager (TfW)

TD, welcomed and introduced Mattew Payn, assistant project manager (TfW), who gave an overview of Transport for Wales introduction of Wales’s active travel class 153 on Heart of Wales Line (HOWL).

Matthew explained Transport for Wales project to introduce six class 153 units to convert to ‘Active Travel’ units to be introduced in 2023-2024. Project aim is in line with the Welsh Government objective to increase activity. As part of the objective:

* Invest in travel options that encourage public transport and support walking and cycling.
* Working with TfW and local authorities to strengthen the promotion of walking and cycling.

MP went on to say how the project would increase cycle travel on rail services, but not compromising seated passenger numbers and benefit the local economy along the Heart of Wales line (HOWL).

It was outlined it the presentation that TfW had a four-stage approach to this project. Those stages being:

* Stage One – Stakeholder engagement
* Stage two – Concept Design
* Stage three – Final Design
* Stage 4 – Manufacturing

Noted that stages one and two were complete as of time of this session in September 2022. Expected now to be on stage three to finalise designs and move towards manufacturing units ready for entry to service. It was concluded at the end of stage one that 10 bike spaces, improved seat pitch with 90 seats was the optimal number. As current average passenger numbers on that line were ranging between 20 – 30.

MP then showed attendees current concepts designs for the class 153s. Explaining the imagery of how things would work for active travel users as well as normal passengers with the layout. As part of the concepts designs, MP pointed out stakeholder feedback on bike security and TfW had designed loops for bike locks to be added. Further to that, TfW are scoping an interactive map on tables, that passengers could scan QR codes to show viewpoints on their journey. Lastly, luggage area and toilets were being reinstated on all units.

MP concluded his presentation with key points that been highlighted through presentation and stressed that the project was about increasing footfall on the Heart of Wales line (HOWL). Session was opened for questions.

Michelle Roles (Transport Focus) asked, “in terms of the luggage space, I mean it's great to see that there is additional luggage space cause experience on that route. You know I I can see that there is a loft and a bit of struggle there, but I wondered I can from the pictures it looks like there's the luggage spaces out of ice eye shot of anyone sitting in the carriages. Is that correct and if so, are there? I know it's something that people often worry about have you know, having sight of their luggage when they're travelling for security reasons?”

Michelle Roles (Transport Focus) – “Is there any um CCTV in that area? Can you what? Sorry, sorry, CCTV.

MP answered that, CCTV is going to be put in as part of the as part of the works as well as being part of specification documents.

No further questions were asked.

1. **Close of Forums / Stakeholder Survey**

Tomos Davies (Chair) thanked forum members for their participation in the meeting and for providing their feedback on future items. He noted his hope that members enjoyed the new format and noted that a survey would be posted in the meeting chat for attendees to complete if they wish.

Forum closed.

## Next Regional Stakeholder Forum

The next All-Wales and Borders regional Stakeholder Forum, including the Mid and West Wales break-out forum, is scheduled for 14th December 2022. The meeting will be held virtually over the Microsoft Teams platform between 9:30am – 12:00pm.