**North and Mid Wales/Wales & Borders Regional Stakeholder Forum**

**06/06/2023**



**Adroddiad o’r cyfarfod**

**Meeting report**

North and Mid Wales / Wales & Borders Regional Stakeholder Forum

The forum met on the 6th June 2023, 11:00 – 11:30

**Attendees**

**Forum Members**

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| Christian Schmidt  | Monmouthshire County Council  |
| Andrew John  | Network Rail |
| Richard Gibson | CrossCountry |
| Michelle Roles | Transport Focus Wales |
| Rich Middleton  | Great Western Railways  |
| Richard Gibson  | Newport City Council  |
| Toby Rackliff | West Midlands Rail Executive |
| Gerard Rhodes | Cheshire West and Chester Council |
| Sean Croshaw | Transport for Greater Manchester |
| Michael P. Thomas | Anglesey Council – Tourism Manager |
| Ian Nellist | Federation of Small Businesses |
| Isobel Smith | Flintshire Council |
| Peter A Bethell | Birmingham City Council – Transport Planner |
| Gwen Thomas |  |
| Nick Smith | Avanti West Coast |
| Rhian Wyn Williams (AMG) | Gwynedd Council – Transport Officer |
| Jasmin Ryan |  |
| Michelle Clarke | Community Transport Association – Wales Transport Strategy Lead |
| Andrew Williams2 | Department for Transport |
| Ann Elias | Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team – Strategic Transport - “Growing Mid Wales Partnership” |
| Peter Mcdermott | Denbighshire CC – Tourism Manager |
| Nicholls, Simon (Bus Coordinator) | Newport City Council |
| Claire Williams | Community Rail Partnership |
| Kevin Towle |  |
| Iwan Williams (Staff) | Bangor University |
| Bethan Swindenbank | Network Rail |

**Transport for Wales**

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| (Chair) Nichole Sarra | Stakeholder Manager  |
| Gail Jones | Stakeholder Manager  |
| Laura Kendrick | Communications Business Partner |
| Luke Curtis | Project Manager |

**Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions – Nichole Sarra (TfW Stakeholder Manager & Chair Regional Forum)**

Welcome and introductions were made by Nichole Sarra, Stakeholder Manager, alongside North and Mid Wales Stakeholder Manager Gail Jones, who advised this session was for forum members of both Mid and North Wales and the Borders areas.

1. **TfW Station Improvement Programme – Luke Curtis TfWRail Project Manager**

Luke presented an overview of the station improvement works planned for Chester, Flint and Runcorn East, all due to commence in June 2023, with Flint and Runcorn East due to complete before the end of the year and Chester to be completed by early 2023. Luke detailed how the upgrade works focused on improving customer facilities at the trio of stations, with Chester the largest of the three packages of work and includes, improvements to the gateline area, passenger waiting areas and toilets.

Luke discussed how all the works have been planned to ensure any passenger disruption is kept to a minimum and a signposted diversion route will be in place while the gateline work is completed at Chester and we’ve urged passengers to allow a few more minutes to make their way through the station during these works.

The Flint work also includes a social commercial development project to convert two rooms at the station into community rooms.

Nichole provided a brief overview of the communications and stakeholder plan, which included hosting four meet the manager sessions at Chester station and one session at Flint Station ahead of the works commencing. Nichole then welcomed Andrew John from Network Rail to provide an overview of the second phase of the Severn Estuary Resilience Programme due to commence this summer.

1. **Severn Estuary Resilience Programme – Andrew John, Network Rail**

Andrew provided an overview of the £25m programme to secure the future of the critical railway line that runs along the Severn Estuary between Gloucester and Newport. This summer, Network Rail is returning to start phase two of the programme, on a one-mile stretch close to Purton, just south west of phase one.

Andrew provided a brief history of the series of landslips and major disruption these caused that prompted this resilience programme of works. He explained that this second phase of the programme was to take place over a smaller blockade package over a three-week period commencing at the end of July. Andrew went into some detail on the resilience mitigation work Network Rail would be completing including removing approximately 1,000 tonnes of stockpiled material from the cutting, along with any existing mesh. And installing an ‘active’ system of 19,500 square metres of mesh, secured by 5,000 bolts, which will hold the cliff face in place.

Nichole explained that trains would be running during the three weeks during weekends but the key advice to passengers was to check before they travel throughout the three-week blockade as buses would replace train services for the majority of services during this time, with Richard Gibson from CrossCountry reaffirming the key message to all passengers to check before you travel.

## Actions

No outstanding actions were captured during the forum.

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| **Action**  | **What will be done?** |
| N/A |  |
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## Next Regional Stakeholder Forum

The next North and Mid Wales and Wales & Borders Regional Stakeholder Forums are scheduled for September 2023. The meeting will be held in-person with details to be confirmed.