

**SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH
RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

**of a meeting held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall
Welshpool on
FRIDAY 13th MAY 2016 at 11.15am**

1. Present were:

Cllr T Roberts	Chair West Cost 250
Cllr M Williams	Vice Chair, Powys County Council & Machynlleth Town Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary and Welshpool Town Council
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
Rhydian Mason	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Tony Caine	Powys County Council
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Peter Adams	Shropshire Council
Cllr Malcolm Douglass	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr G Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council
Angus Eickoff	S A R P A
D Woodhouse	Aber/Tywyn Tourism

2. Apologies for absence:

The Following apologies for absence were recorded:

Cllr M Benjamin
Cllr E Jones-Williams
Cllr Ann Lloyd
Cllr D Lewis

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

There was a comment about the amount of detail in the minutes, the Secretary informed the meeting that only basic details are included (except where they are considered of particular importance) with decisions. The meeting was happy with the minutes format.

4. Financial Report

The meeting considered the financial report as follows:

i) **Bank account**

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The current position - £573.32p in the account before the two grants noted below are added.

ii) **Grant Aid Shropshire & Ceredigion Councils**

Grants from Shropshire and Ceredigion have been received.

iii) **Grant aid Powys County Council**

The grant from Powys County Council was considered. It is three years now and they have put nothing in the pot.

Tony Caine relayed the message that they support the Cambrian Partnership and the Heart of Wales Line Forum.

PCC was under the misunderstanding that this Committee is part of the Cambrian Partnership which is wrong.

The meeting was not impressed with the stance of Powys County Council and the secretary is to write expressing this along with information on what work the group has done over the years. A copy is to be sent to the Chair, Vice Chair and Tony Caine.

5. Actions taken since the last meeting

The meeting noted the following actions taken since the last meeting:

i) **The survey for Welsh Government in July/August 2016**

The Secretary has contacted Dave Thomas at Welsh Government and it appears that they are looking to the Rail Partnership to complete this work. The matter will be raised again when the meeting with the new Minister is held.

ii) **Meetings with the Minister**

Now that the May elections have passed a meeting can be arranged with the new Minister when one is appointed.

iii) **Press release**

The press release was approved and released.

iv) **Submission of the Joint Committee Cambrian Lines Franchise Document**

The document as approved was submitted to Welsh Government.

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v) Submission of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee consultation response

The document as approved was submitted to Welsh Government.

vi) Consultation on Wales and Borders Franchise

The meeting was informed that only the first consultation on the above has taken place. There is another which is imminent and another to follow that.

6. Reports:

To receive reports as follows:

i) Arriva Trains Wales

The meeting received a full report from Arriva Trains Wales with the main points being as follows:

- a) An award of funding has been gained to install WiFi on all Arriva Trains Wales stock. This includes the 158's on the Cambrian Lines.
- b) The rail franchise ends in October 2018. There is much uncertainty about what is planned for the future.
- c) Sale of tickets can now be done using the telephone as a ticket.
- d) The Machines on the platforms are causing some concern, Arriva Trains is aware of this and is seeking to correct the situation.
- e) The timetable for the extra trains to complete an hourly service are still not coming forth at this stage.
- f) The timetable to enable trains to stop north of Barmouth is still not sorted but is being followed up.
- g) There are still not enough trains to support the rail timetables in Wales.
- h) The current performance figures include 93.7% on time and 89% satisfied with the services.
- i) There have been issues over the Cambrian Lines in the last six weeks due to problems with 175 units requiring the relocation of 158 units to fill in. This has left the Cambrian Lines with more 2 carriage trains than is normal. The situation has now rectified itself.
- j) The Network Rail infrastructure is still an issue with many line closures (with replacement buses) due over the holiday period through July to September. There are more planned for 2017.
- k) The Secretary thanked Arriva Trains for their swift action in clearing human 'poo' from the platform at Welshpool so quickly on two occasions, one earlier in the week.

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- l) An update was given on the Borth crossing with some confusion between Network Rail and those 'on the ground'. Cllr R Quant now has key to allow access.
- m) There are plans to provide a rail ticketing outline at Barmouth when the Tourist Information Office closes.
There are to be ticket sales at the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre starting very soon.

ii) Network Rail

There was no report from Network Rail.
Powys County Council reported on the rail crossing points, the one at Tallyrdig has been priced and is now with Network Rail for implementation.

iii) Cambrian Rail Partnership

The reports given to the meeting have been posted on the web site.
Rhydian Mason took the meeting through the report.

iv) Transport Police

There was no report from the Transport Police.

7. Infrastructure

i. Shrewsbury

The following issues were raised:

- The removal of the through freight line – this is due to be re-instated.
- The new refreshment café on the platform was not well received.
- Shrewsbury Station is due to be closed on 9th July all day for works.

ii. Welshpool

The following actions were reported:

- The new car park is open.
- Agreement has been reached between WTC and PCC on the Town Bus stopping at the Station very soon. A timetable has been issued.
- The Town Council is installing two litter bins by the footbridge (one each side).

iii. Newtown

Nothing raised at the meeting.

iv. Caersws

There are still discussions continuing regarding improved car parking.

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v. **Machynlleth**

The following information was tabled:

The lifts are due to be commissioned on 20th June following many delays.

The car parking and integrated bus point is progressing through discussions.

Concern over the bus situation in Machynlleth was expressed with regards to safety.

vi. **Dovey Junction**

Nothing was tabled. The meeting noted that access is pedestrian only..

vii. **Borth**

The museum has been in place for 5 years and has a special event on 2/7/2016.

viii. **Aberystwyth**

The following was tabled:

The station adoption scheme now allows for mobility scooters to be available to those using the trains.

The Victorian building (opposite the platform) is now to be home to several café's with a link to the new multi storey car park.

The station canopy is an issue – there are requests for a longer canopy and for the leaks to be fixed. (it is understood that the leaks may have been so fixed).

ix. **Other closed stations**

The meeting noted the following:

Bow Street – re-opening

The meeting noted the work being done to look at re-opening Bow Street Station. This appears to have Welsh Government backing allowing progress.

Carno re-opening

The meeting noted the work being done by the Carno Action Group.

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8. Tourism matters

To consider the following:

i) Tourist Information Office provision along and around the line.

There was concern expressed about the continued closure of Tourist Information Offices along and around the towns served by the Cambrian Line.

ii) Rail ticket sales at Newtown and Welshpool.

The meeting noted that the Newtown ticket sales facility is continuing and that Welshpool Tourist Information Office will be selling rail tickets soon.

The meeting noted that there is a specialist rail service offered in a retail unit in Tywyn.

9. Future Plan for SARLC

The meeting considered a letter from SARPA and this was considered.

The subjects raised are already covered in the future plan for the SARLC.

The meeting agreed to meet one hour before the joint meeting in July to discuss the document which is attached to these minutes in draft.

10. Date of next meeting

To note the day of the next meeting to be held Friday 8th July 2016 at Machynlleth.

A cheaper venue than Y Plas is to be considered.

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

TRAVEL PLAN FOR 2016 TO 2020



Dated 12th May 2016

Clr Trevor Roberts Chair

Clr Mike Williams Vice Chair

Rhydian Mason

Robert Robinson FRICS FLCM Secretary



**SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH
RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

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SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

1. Introduction

1.1 Document

This document sets out details of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee (more information within its constitution) and sets out the aims and objectives of the Committee over the next 4 years from 2016 to 2020.

1.2 Plan

The plan was approved following consultation will form the policy, aims and objectives of the Committee.

2. The Committee

2.1 Membership

The membership of the Committee shall be as set out at appendix B.

2.2 Meetings

The main meeting of the members of the group shall be held 4 times a year of which two shall be a joint with the Cambrian Line Conference.

2.3 Secretariat & Financial

The secretariat and financial management shall be provided by Welshpool Town Council.

2.4 Executive

The day to day running of the affairs of the Committee shall be carried out by Welshpool Town Council with an executive formed to action instructions from the Committee. The executive shall comprise the Chair, Vice Chair, Cambrian Rail Partnership and Secretary.

3. Funding of the Committee & its work

3.1 Funding

The funding of the Committee shall be by the following:

- i) Grant aid from the three County Councils.
- ii) Grant aid from the Welsh Government for specific purposes.

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4. Recent history

4.1 Infrastructure & signals

In July 2013 the Executive met with the Minister to discuss possible timetable improvements for the line. This cumulated in a major survey being undertaken funded by Welsh Government. The results were impressive and lead to an implementation group being set up to bring forward the new services.

4.2 Work with Welsh Government

The Committee has worked with Welsh Government not only in the introduction of the new services but also with surveys to provide information for the Minister. This is to continue with surveys being carried out in the summer months.

4.2 Improved rail services

The improved rail services have provided the following:

- i) An hourly service for most of the day along the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Line.
- ii) A full two hourly service on the Coast Line.
- iii) Improvements to stations to support the new services.

5. Purpose of the plan

The purpose of the plan is to give direction to the Committee with an agreed plan and set of policies.

This in turn will inform the Principle Authorities and Rail Companies the aims and objectives for the line and which will aid working together to achieve such aims.

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6. Survey and monitoring of the service

6.1 Summer Surveys

The Committee is to work with Welsh Government in the completion of independent surveys – such surveys to be funded by Welsh Government and are to be carried out in the summer months.

6.2 Recording of surveys

The Committee will record such surveys on a template with all years able to be seen next to each other.

6.3 Monitoring

The information gained from the summer surveys are to be used to aid the monitoring of this document.

6.4 Consultation methods

The method used for consultation shall be as set out at appendix C.

7. Franchise

7.1 Response to consultation

The Committee responded to the Franchise 2018 consultation, a copy of the response is available on the web site of the Committee at www.shrewsburyaberystwythrail.org.uk

7.2 Inclusion in plan

The submission comments are to be read alongside this plan as informative.

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8. Consultation

8.1 Evidence for the plan

8.2 Method of consultation

The plan is to be subject to consultation as follows:

- i) Draft approved by the members present.
- ii) Each individual Council represented will be asked to comment.
- iii) The document will be available on line and can be used by Communities to consult residents and others giving a chance to put forward their views.
- iv) The Welsh Government and County Councils will be asked to comment.

The results of the consultation shall be included as evidence for the plan and form part of the plan.

8.3 Consideration of the results

The consultation results were reported to the Committee and considered before approval of the plan.

8.4 Results

The results of the consultation are set out at appendix D.

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

9. Infrastructure Policy

9.1 General

The Policy of the Committee with regard to infrastructure is set out here.

9.2 Shrewsbury

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Redevelopment of Shrewsbury Station to provide better facilities.
- ii) Better access to platform 3.

9.3 Welshpool

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Improved disabled access to the platforms.
- ii) Rail ticket sales on the platform and at the Tourist Information Centre.
- iii) Town Bus Service provision at the station with improved signage.

9.4 Newtown

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i)

9.5 Caersws

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Improved car parking facilities.

9.6 Machynlleth

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

- i) Completion of works to the footbridge and lift provision.
- ii) Improved car parking and bus arrangements.

9.7 Dovey Junction

The Committee supports and will support any further improvements to access to serve the station.

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9.8 Borth

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

i)

9.9 Aberystwyth

The Committee supports and will actively aid the completion of the following:

9.10 Further stations

To support the re-opening of intermediate stations (subject to such actions not impeding the full hourly train service with its connections):

9.11 Flooding and sea defences

To support any infrastructure works to protect the line from the effects of the sea and in particular flooding.

To support any remedial actions that are taken to reduce the risk of flooding on the main line.

9.12 Permanent Way

To monitor and consider any aspects which may affect the provision of rail infrastructure with particular regard to Network Rail.

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10. Rail Services

10

10.1 General

The Policy of the Committee with regard to train services is set out here.

10.2 Timetable

The improved timetable is welcome but needs to be improved as follows:

- a) Full hourly service on the main line from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth.
- b) Full 7 day a week timetable.

10.3 On board catering

On board catering to be continued and extended as needed to all trains.

10.4 Ticketing

To gain a more understandable ticketing system for rail services including 'Bus Plus' ticketing.

10.5 Information

To support improvements to the information boards, displays on platforms and other printed material for the public.

10.6 Train stock

To support the introduction of new rolling stock and the upgrading of the existing stock.

10.7 London services

To support the retention of London services from Shrewsbury.

10.8 Cross border rail services

To support the retention of services from Mid Wales to Birmingham International and to other main centres.

10.9 Rolling Stock

To support any initiative to create better and replacement rolling stock.

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11. Buses

11

11.1 General

The Policy of the Committee with regard to buses is set out here.

11.2 Buses linking with trains

To support any initiative which provides timetabled buses which link in with train times.

To aid this support is given:

- a) to the provision of the Welshpool Town Bus Service calling at the railway station.
- b)

11.3 Signage

To improve signage at stations giving information on buses and where they serve.

11.4 Local buses

To support the retention of rural bus services where there is no other form of public transport available.

11.5 Local bus linking main stations

Support for the provision of buses along the rail line towns stopping at the villages as well as the main line stations linked to train times.

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12. Policy Proposals

12.1 General

The Policies contained in the document are to be implemented and may not be changed without the approval of a full meeting of the members.

12.2 Policies

The Policy of the Committee is set out in 9, 10 and 11 above.

12.3 Action Plan

The Action Plan for implementation shall include:

- i) Completion of surveys in the summer for Welsh Government.
- ii) Bringing forward proposals as set out in this document to a timetable agreed with the Full Committee.

12.4 Method of implementation

The implementation methods shall include:

- a) Working with Welsh Government and Principle Authorities.
- b) Working with the Principle Authorities and Rail Companies.
- c) Survey work.
- d) Direct action on projects.

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13. Review and monitoring

13.1 Review dates

The plan shall be reviewed at the March meeting held each year of the Committee.

13.2 Monitoring

The monitoring of progress shall be presented in chart form for easy reference.

13.3 Reporting

The report containing the review shall be published and a copy made available to the Minister, Principle Authorities and Rail Companies after it has been approved by the Committee.

This plan was approved on.....

Signed..... Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair

Signed.....Cllr Michael Williams Vice Chair

Signed.....Robert Robinson Secretariat

Dated.....

SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Appendix A

Map of the Shrewsbury/Aberystwyth Line



SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

APPENDIX B

Committee Membership

The following shall be members of the Committee:

Representatives from the following County Councils:

- Ceredigion County Council
- Powys County Council
- Shropshire County Council

Representatives from the following Town & Community Councils:

- Shrewsbury Town Council
- Welshpool Town Council
- Newtown Town Council
- Caersws Community Council
- Machynlleth Town Council
- Borth Community Council
- Aberystwyth Town Council

Representatives from the following interest groups:

- Coast Line Conference
- S.A.R.P.A.
- Rail Focus
- Carno Action Group
- West Coast 250

Representatives from the following:

- Arriva Trains Wales
- Network Rail
- Cambrian Rail Partnership
- British Transport Police

Representatives from Government as follows:

- MP's for Ceredigion and Montgomeryshire.
- AM's for Mid and West Wales areas.
- Local AM for Montgomeryshire and Ceredigion
- Ministers and representatives of Welsh Government.

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected from the members and shall be elected Councillors.

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APPENDIX C

CONSULTATION METHODS

The following consultation methods are to be used:

Surveys for rail services (on board trains)

The survey forms for those on board shall be done by issuing and collecting on the train within a few minutes of issue before collection using volunteers or staff in pairs.

Surveys for major projects

The following survey methods shall be used to consult on Major Projects including this plan:

Booklets

Provision of booklets/flyers with information in paper form for use either via delivery to homes or central points.

Web Site

Information to be published on the Committees web site and where needed with a specific site using survey monkey.

Social Media

Information to be published in all social media including face-book, twitter and My Welshpool/My Newtown.

Local Press

Information to be published in all local press.

Drop in days

To provide drop in days in central places in areas affected by any proposals. These to be hosted by the local representatives with support from the Secretariat.

All material shall be bi-lingual.

**SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH
RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE**

APPENDIX D

CONSULTATION RESULTS WHEN COMPLETED