



LDO's report February 2017 For the Shrewbsury to Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee.

Meeting Paul Maynard MP – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for Transport (Rail Minister, DfT).

We have been fortunate to be offered a meeting with Paul Maynard MP with a view to seeking his endorsement for the efforts we're making to promote the Orange Wallet Scheme nationally. I attended along with Ben Davies, Phil Caldwell and David Crunkhorn of ATW, and we were given a fair meeting with Mr Maynard. He was able to give us his endorsement for the scheme along with advice on how to proceed with our efforts, in conjunction with his officers. This is an excellent example of how a local, community rail partnership project is able to make a national mark, and we will be taking his advice forward, working in partnership with ATW and the Arriva UK Group.

Rail Franchising and Welsh Government support

I've attended numerous meetings along with colleagues from the 4 other Wales & Borders Community Rail Partnerships where we've been discussing the future of CRPs and how they might fit in with the next franchise. This year we've been fortunate to receive grant funding for both revenue and capital projects from WG and we are naturally keen to work with WG to secure more funding for the coming financial years.

We have had a verbal confirmation that we have been successful in our capital grant bids for new shelters for Welshpool, Dyfi Junction, and Llanaber stations.

Publications

We are imminently ready to proceed to publish our new booklet of short walks on the Cambrian lines. This booklet will take the place of the Cambrian Trailways leaflets which proved extremely popular some years ago. We have secured the endorsement of the Wales

Coastal Path (via Natural Resources Wales) and are seeking approval to use the Welsh Government/Visit Wales logos on it as well.

Surveys

The Cambrian Railways Partnership is delighted to work with the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee and we are commissioning surveys scheduled for Spring 2017 as part of our grant from the Welsh Government, to be delivered on our behalf by this committee and the Mid Wales Rail Implementation Group. The surveys follow on from the success of the 2013 and 2015 surveys which resulted in improved services on the Cambrian Lines.

2017 Promotional Campaign

We have already produced a short promotional film and are seeking additional funding to allow us to prepare a brand new tourist-focussed website and further short films which we are looking to release February/March until early summer this year. The campaign will be exclusively based on social media platforms.

Stories and Books by Cambrian

We have been approached by the Ceredigion Council library service and the Welsh Books Council to work on further projects linking stories and books with the Cambrian Lines. We are currently awaiting confirmation of details and funding availability to pilot what could emerge as a pan-Wales project.

2017-2018 Business Plan

Our business plan for the next financial year is being prepared and will outline our project for the coming 12 months. This will be presented at the next meeting of the Cambrian Railways Partnership for approval by the funding stakeholders, due to be held in March.

Rhydian Mason
Rail Development Officer
Cambrian Railways Partnership
rhydian.mason2@ceredigion.gov.uk
07/02/2017