

# SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

WITH

## THE CAMBRIAN COAST LINE CONFERENCE

### MINUTES

of a meeting held at Y Plas Machynlleth on

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 11.15am

#### 1. Record of attendance

##### Present were:

Cllr T Roberts	Chair
Cllr E Jones-Williams	Vice Chair Cambrian Coast
Cllr M Williams	Vice Chair SARLC, Powys & Machynlleth Councils
Robert Robinson	Secretary and Welshpool Town Council
Ben Davies	Arriva Trains Wales
David Crunkhorn	Arriva Trains Wales
Clare Williams	Cambrian Rail Partnership
Cllr D Lewis	Aberystwyth Town Council
Roger Goodhew	S A R PA
Cllr A Lloyd	Gwynedd County Council
Dave Taylor	Rail Future Cambrian Lines
Cllr Jeremy Barnes	Carno Station Action Group
Ann Eliis	Growing Mid Wales Partnership
Cllr Alun Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Roger Whitehouse	Talyllyn Steam Railway

##### Apologies received from:

Cllr S Griffiths	Cambrian Coast Conference
D Elis-Thomas	Minister for Tourism
Cllr R Quant	Ceredigion County Council
Chris Wilson	Ceredigion County Council
Roy Norris	Newtown Town Council
Gareth Marston	SARPA
Matt Johnson	
Andy Thomas	
Annwen Hughes	
Andrew Russell	
Eirwen Williams	

Cont....

Alun Evans

George Collinson

Chris Wilson

Network Rail

Ceredigion County Council

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The meeting approved the minutes of the last combined meeting – see web site.

## **3. Actions taken since the last meeting**

The meeting received a report on actions taken since the last meeting.

## **4. Financial report**

The meeting was given a short financial report including discussions with Powys County Council who are now willing to pay grant aid the same as the other Principal Authorities along the line.

## **5. Dementia Friendly Cambrian Lines**

Clare Williams gave an outline of her work with seeking a Dementia Friendly Cambrian Lines. To take this forward discussions have started with Machynlleth, Barmouth, Pwllheli and Aberystwyth stations.

There is to be a steering group and members were invited to express an interest in taking part in this, the first meeting was planned for January 2018.

There are other Dementia Friendly Towns on route including Welshpool and Newtown.

## **6. Report on meeting with Welsh Government**

The meeting received a full presentation and report on the surveys held for Welsh Government earlier in the year cumulating in a meeting with Welsh Government.

From the meeting with Welsh Government the following was confirmed:

- a) The existing revised services are to be the minimum service provided under the new Franchise including through services to Birmingham International.
- b) The survey report was well received and formed a good basis for discussions on future services going forward.

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Welsh Government also requested that the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee meet again with the remaining Franchise Companies to present the survey and discuss improvements to the Cambrian Lines.

The need to keep Cambrian Rail Cards was recorded.

## **7. Reports from:**

The meeting received reports from:

### **a. Arriva Trains Wales**

A report was given by Arriva Trains Wales including the following main points:

- i) Issues with trains during and post the storms was acknowledged with 90 trains hitting objects and many needing maintenance causing issues with the service delivery.
- ii) Prior to the storms the service was running at close to 90% services on time.
- iii) Work continues to complete better toilets on remaining trains yet to be upgraded.
- iv) The service delivery will continue unchanged during the final part of the current Franchise.
- v) The 94-96 staff remain at Machynlleth and will pass onto the new Franchise Company.
- vi) There is an investment of £1m by Arriva Trains Wales and £1.5m from Welsh Government to order 4 new train sets. They will be used on the Valley Lines but this will cascade trains down which may help the Cambrian Lines.
- vii) WiFi is coming to stations over a set programme.
- viii) New Franchise comes into effect at 2am on 18.10.2018.

### **b. Network Rail**

The report from Network has been received and will be posted on the web site.

### **c. Cambrian Rail Partnership**

Clare Williams gave a short report, a copy will be posted on the web site.

**d. British Transport Police**

There was no report from the British Transport Police.

**8. Future Plan of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee**

To consider any other relevant business notified to the Chairs or Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

**9. Shelters for stations**

The Secretary will chase up Welsh Government on the provision of the shelters proposed for stations. I.e. Welshpool.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next Joint Meeting is to be Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 11.15am in Y Plas Machynlleth.

The next Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Meeting is to be Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 11.15am in Welshpool Town Hall.

**11. Actions to be taken forward**

The actions to be taken forward are:

- a) Meeting with Franchise Companies.
- b) Support for a Dementia Friendly Cambrian Lines.
- c) Chase up installation of new shelters.