



SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

AGENDA

For a meeting to be held at The Town Hall Welshpool on

Friday 11th May 2018 at 11.15am

1. Record of attendance

To record attendance and apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve the minutes of the last combined meeting – see web site.

3. Actions taken since the last meeting

To receive a report on actions taken since the last meeting.

- a) Rail Freight to be added to the next meetings agenda.
- b) Welshpool Town Council to complete the survey on freight.
- c) Rail Crossings to be added to next agenda.
- d) Welshpool Town Council to take forward Welshpool Station proposals.
- e) Both Ben Davies and Robert Robins on to chase up the extra shelters.
- f) Ben Davies to pass on comments on rail information.
- g) Letter to be sent to Network Rail expressing disappointment at weekend working during holiday periods.
- h) Arriva Trains is to issue growth figures for the last 12 months in a few weeks. The secretary will then pass them onto member

4. Financial report

To consider any financial report.

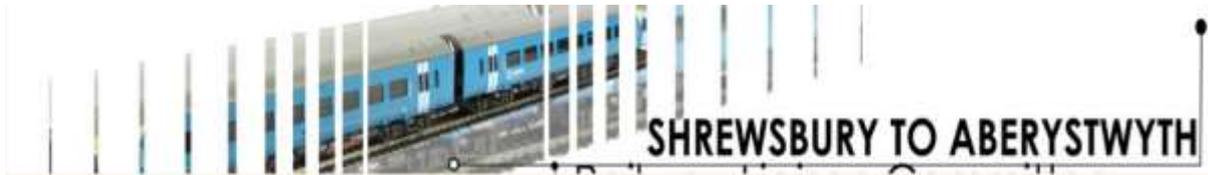
5. Rail Freight

To consider this subject and the results of the survey carried out in Welshpool.

To consider what actions should be taken forward by the group.

6. Rail Crossings

To consider the issue of rail crossing points.



7. Reports from:

To receive reports from:

- a. **Arriva Trains Wales**
- b. **Network Rail**
- c. **Cambrian Rail Partnership**
- d. **British Transport Police**

8. Franchise

To receive an update on the current situation.

9. Machynlleth Town Council

To consider supporting Machynlleth Town Council in seeking a central transport hub in the Town with an integrated transport exchange.

See appendix A1 and A2.

10. Welshpool Station

To receive a short report on the initial proposals.

11. Any other business

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

12. Date of next meeting

To consider the dates for meetings during the year as follows:

SARLC Meetings:

Friday 5th October 2018 in Welshpool

Friday 8th February 2019 in Welshpool

Joint Meetings:

Friday 13th July 2018 in Machynlleth

All meetings start at 11.15am



APPENDIX A1

Dear Mr Robinson

This is sent to you as secretary to the Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Railway Liaison Committee secretary

Following a presentation to Machynlleth Town Council and making the front page headlines in the Cambrian News (5th April 2018) I have been asked to write to you highlighting the desperate need to ensure that Lloyds Coaches retains its operating base and transport hub in Machynlleth.

At the meeting Cllr Atkins explained that Lloyd's coaches was probably the biggest independent employer in Machynlleth but they struggling to provide and improve the services they offer in their current location. They may therefore have to leave Machynlleth and relocate to Dolgellau if they are unable to continue to operate here. This would cause considerable job losses to the town and given the numbers involved would have serious and sever economic overtones.

The one overriding factor for the potential move is that this successful business has expanded to a point that it no longer 'fits' its current base and is in dire need of expanding the bus station footprint in order to accommodate the changes. It has been suggested that this (bus only) 'hub' can be moved to Dolgellau, but this would have no train link whatsoever and consequently fail the basic 'integrated transport network' requirement, making the move there non-sensical in the extreme.

A number of years ago there were moves by Powys CC to help expand the (integrated transport) 'hub' but these fell by the wayside when Powys CC pulled out of the project and current changes to the trunk road and northerly approaches to Machynlleth don't seem to go far enough and recognise the need to 'tweak' the area around the current 'hub'

Machynlleth is currently a major transport hub for the whole of wales, with a large bus station adjacent to a mainline railway station. The busses serve the north south Traws Cambria service and feed into all major bus routes north, south and east of the town. The trains serve the mainline Aberystwyth to Birmingham and Cambrian coast network that are important for all users from students, resident and tourists alike. There is no comparative 'feeder' hub anywhere else in wales.

Any improvements will comply with and feed into the 'national transport plan' and the 'wales transport strategy' in a positive way



In the past initiatives such as *WELTAG* have recognised the importance of such 'hubs' and the current plans to enhance and compliment the current provision seem to be subject to a number of smaller initiatives driven by individual 'interested parties'.

Machynlleth Town Council calls on the Welsh Government, Powys CC and all other interested parties to take a holistic approach to the application of 'joining up all the dots' in any major project that could affect this initiative to see if substantial savings can be made by combining the ideas of a number of projects where the outcomes would benefit many.

At the time of writing this proposal, the Machynlleth (bus) hub is in danger of closure and downgrading due to welsh government and Powys county council economic development not recognising the number of smaller kindred projects that are evolving locally and are failing to integrate the ideas into one cohesive project. Such 'short-sightedness' will be catastrophic for the whole of mid Wales.

Once this issue has been addressed the whole being greater than the sum of the parts will ensure that Lloyds Coaches continue to operate in the town, the hub is where it needs to be- next to an important train interchange and the economic future of the whole area can be stabilised and improved.

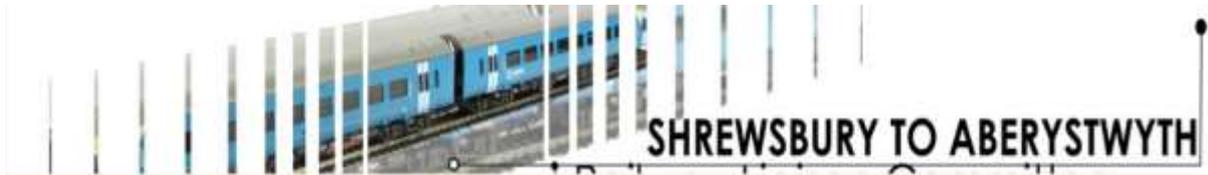
It is hoped that you will support this initiative and that progress can be made in 'joining up all the dots' in this important matter.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely

Jim Griffiths

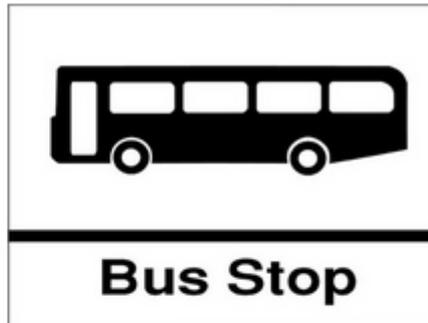
Town Clerk



APPENDIX A2

Over £1m of grants to help fund local transport schemes in the county has been secured by Powys County Council, including one for Welshpool.

The significant funding, announced by the Welsh Government, has been allocated through the Local Transport Network Fund (£450,000); Safe Routes in Communities (£322,229), Local Transport Fund (£175,000) and Road Safety Grant (£101,850) with funding totalling £1,049,079.



The Local Transport Network Fund will be used to improve public transport interchange facilities in Welshpool as well as Llandrindod Wells and Machynlleth.

The Local Transport Fund will allow the council to design several active travel schemes including two in Newtown and Welshpool.

The Road Safety Grant will allow the council to continue to provide its road safety initiatives to make the roads in Powys safer for all users.

Cllr Phyl Davies, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "I'm delighted that the Welsh Government has award this funding, which residents and businesses will benefit from.

"The funding is a substantial investment and will improve road safety, enhance public transport facilities and provide more and better routes that will enable the people of Powys to walk and cycle and to do so safely."