



SHREWSBURY ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting held on Tuesday 7th August 2018 at 11.15am

in Cathays, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

Present were

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair	Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
Cllr Michael Williams	Vice Chair	Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
Robert Robinson	Secretary	Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee
Dave Thomas		Welsh Government
Rhian Bird		Welsh Government

1. The new working arrangement for Welsh Railways from 14th October 2018

A discussion took place around the new arrangements following the end of the Arriva Trains franchise.

Generally the following will apply:

- i) The tracks will continue to be run by Network Rail except for the Core Valley Lines (north of Cardiff Queen Street) which will transfer to TfW on behalf of Welsh Ministers.
- ii) Transport for Wales will maintain the CVL stations, trains and infrastructure.
- iii) Kelios Amey will provide the staffing and run the services.
- iv) Kelios Amey will provide maintenance of the CVL infrastructure; Network Rail will retain the remainder of the network.
- v) The whole service will be branded 'Wales and Borders Rail Services'.

There have been a number of statements and the following are of note:

- i) New trains are promised in the publicity for 2023. It maybe that 'new trains' means new for the line. (maybe refurbished class 170's) but with both new and refurbished vehicles the age of the overall fleet will improve significant. The Cambrian Lines will receive new 2/3 car DMU's from 2022 with additional capacity.
- ii) CCTV on all stations.
- iii) Money allocated for various elements including stations, car parking etc.
- iv) The current Cambrian rail services are confirmed to remain with a better Sunday service by 2019. **The Committee asked for details of the timetables proposed for Sundays.**



- v) The need to take trains through to Birmingham International and not Birmingham New Street was confirmed by the Committee – there are contractual obligations in place. (this is based on the previous difficulties when the services ended at Birmingham New Street.)
- vi) The full hourly train service is due to be completed and in place in 2022.
- vii) The chances of cascading trains earlier are unlikely to happen.

2. Purpose of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee

The question of the status of the Committee was considered. The view expressed was that the group has proved itself over the years and should continue in its consultation role.

The general definition of the remit of the Committee should be:

- i) To represent and give a formal voice to the communities along the line liaising with Welsh Government, Principle Authorities and the Rail Operators and Providers.
- ii) To fact find and present findings to both Welsh Government, Rail Operators and Providers along with Principle Authorities.
- iii) Identify needs and issues and report to the relevant provider.
- iv) To carry out surveys as required to inform the Welsh Government and Rail Providers and Operators.
- v) The heading on the Web Site and letter heading is currently showing an Arriva Train on the heading. **This can change to the 'T' (Transport for Wales logo) and the assistance of TforW to enable this was requested.**

The Committee might be minded to consider including buses within its remit – this might aid integrated transport.

3. Cambrian Rail issues as at 7th August 2018

The current issues on the Cambrian Lines were discussed:

3.1 Delays and cancellations

The issue of delays and cancellations was considered. There have been many excuses, many in conflict with each other. Days after assurances were given by Arriva Trains Wales (that services would not be cancelled) more cancellations took place.

3.2 Ticket Machines

The current ticket machines were considered not fit for purpose and when they are replaced with new machines the following should be considered: ***(TforW was asked to consider this)***

- i) Larger easier to read buttons need to be included.
- ii) Touch screens often do not work due to reflections.
- iii) Any buttons/screens should recognise those who are visually impaired.
- iv) The range of tickets available needs to be extended beyond the present.



3.3 Dementia Friendly Status

The work to create movement towards a dementia friendly line is slow. It would be helpful if a checklist could be issued of requirements for local communities to work to.

Welshpool has produced a plan which is in place. (see attached at A). **TforW were asked to consider producing a template.**

4. Cambrian Rail Timetables

The timetables were discussed with the following of note:

- i) The new rail timetables proposed by Transport for Wales will need to be staffed, at present it appears there is not enough staff to run the existing timetable. Kelios have confirmed that timetable and that they can staff it.
- ii) It was confirmed that the minimum service to be provided by Transport for Wales is to be:

Cambrian Line

A minimum of 12 direct services per day shall be provided eastbound between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury. As a minimum, these services shall call at Machynlleth.

A minimum of 12 direct services per day shall be provided westbound between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth. As a minimum, these services shall call at Machynlleth.

At least 8 services westbound and 8 eastbound shall also extend from/to Birmingham New Street, calling, as a minimum, at Wolverhampton.

Of the 8 Birmingham New Street services, at least 7 services westbound and 7 eastbound shall also extend from/to Birmingham International.

A minimum of 5 direct services westbound and 4 direct services eastbound shall be provided per day between Pwllheli and Birmingham New Street. A further direct service shall be provided eastbound between Barmouth and Birmingham New Street.

As a minimum, these services shall call at Machynlleth, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton and may join or split from Aberystwyth - Birmingham New Street services at Machynlleth.

During the winter period, the number of through services between Pwllheli and Birmingham New Street may be reduced to 3 westbound and 4 eastbound.

- iii) **Transport for Wales was asked to confirm the above understanding.**

5. Cambrian Lines Survey Work

It was recognised how important the survey work was and how instrumental they were in gaining the improved rail services on the Cambrian Lines.

Future survey work will fall to Kelios which will be taking over the role of grant funding CRP's required currently to undertake surveys under their grant condition – the SARLC should liaise with Kelios over any future survey work.

SARLC may wish to consider its own survey work to aid any future requests.



6. Ticket sales outlets

The ticket sales outlets have all received notice to terminate their tickets sales contracts on 14th October 2018.

Welshpool TIC has already been in contact with Kelios and they are entering into a new contract with them. The outlets may well have the same offer.

7. Welshpool Station

Plans and proposals for the development of Welshpool Station to provide a much improved facility were discussed. The land next to the station to allow progress is available.

A letter to the Minister should be drafted and discussions should take place with Transport for Wales. There are also other discussions taking place with those who can help.

8. Station platform shelters

The shelters previously discussed are not currently planned for installation.

It was suggested by the Committee that they need to take this matter to the Minister.

9. Carno Station

There was no further news on the possible opening of Carno Station. It was suggested that a firm decision needs to be made of either 'taking forward a scheme' or 'dropping it altogether'. The limbo currently is not an acceptable position.

10. Minutes of the meeting

The minutes of the meeting are to be circulated to those present for comment before publication to ensure there are no errors and mis-statements.

11. Actions to be taken forward:

The following actions are to be taken forward:

i) Dave Thomas will clarify the following:

- a) Seek assurance that trains to Birmingham will go through to the International.
- b) Seek what is meant by 'new trains' in 2023.
- c) Pass on comments regarding the ticket machine specification.
- d) Gain approval from Transport for Wales to use their logo on the SARLC heading.
- e) A dementia statement on what communities can do relating to rail.



- ii) **SARLC should write to the Minister on the following:**
 - a) The construction of the new platform shelters.
 - b) A commitment regarding moving forward with dementia related matters as a priority.

- iii) **SARLC should liaise with Transport for Wales on the following:**
 - a) The station proposals for Welshpool.
 - b) Ticket outlet points.

- iv) **SARLC should liaise with Kelios on the following:**
 - a) Ticket sales outlets.
 - b) Staffing of trains.

- v) **SARCL should liaise with Gareth O Evans on the following:**
 - a) Carno station re-opening status.

R A Robinson FRICS FSLCC
Secretary

9th August 2018



WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

DEMENTIA ACTION PLAN – 2018-2022

No	Activity	Action	Status
1	Dementia Friendly Town	Gain Welshpool Dementia Friendly Status	Completed
2	Dementia Friendly Business	Sign up businesses to be Dementia Friends	Round 1 completed
3	Dementia Days at Day Centre	Host a special day for those with Dementia at the Day Centre	Completed and in place
4	Dementia Friendly signage	Encourage Dementia Friendly signage where possible	Ongoing but some already in place
5	Dementia Friendly public toilets	Decorations and fittings in public disabled toilets to be in contrasting colours	Ongoing but some already completed
6	Changing Rooms Facility	Provide a new changing rooms facility within Welshpool Town Centre	Approved, grant aid being sought
7	Dementia Craft Days	Host craft days at the Day Centre	Taking place
8	Dementia Singing Days	Host singing days at the Day Centre	Taking place
9	Fund raising	Host coffee mornings and other events to raise funds	Ongoing, many events held
10	Dementia Friendly Courses	Offer Dementia Friendly courses for all	Ongoing, many held
11	Work with other agencies to gain dementia friendly signage	Work with other agencies to reach objectives	Ongoing
12	Web Site for Dementia Welshpool	Provide a Dementia Friendly Welshpool web site	Completed
13	Dementia Friendly Committee with Town Council Support	Form a Dementia Friendly Committee to support action plan	Completed and in place
14	Work with other Dementia Groups to share ideas	Work with Brecon to find out how things work there and in other areas	Ongoing
15	Provide in Dementia Colours booklets	Provide pocket book on Dementia	Completed
16	Provide in Dementia Colours stickers	Provide Dementia coloured stickers to hand out at events	Completed
17	Work with Police leading to Dementia Friends	Work with Police to promote Dementia awareness in the Police force	Ongoing, work started
18	Shopping	Host a shopping day for those with Dementia with Sainsbury's	Completed, day a week happening
19	Swimming	Promote free Dementia Friends swimming sessions at the Flash	Completed, day a week happening



No	Activity	Action	Status
20	Schools	Work with local schools to create Dementia awareness	Gungrog School working with group
21	Monitoring	Monitor annual return and set new aims and objectives or review existing objectives on an annual basis	Annual reviews taking place