



WEB SITE – <http://shrewsburyaberystwythrailway.org>

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020



NEW TRAINS FOR CAMBRIAN LINES

Transport for Wales is introducing new rolling stock in December 2022 and this is to be welcomed. However it appears there will be less seats and less toilets. Members have expressed real concern over this reduction in facilities which does not accord with the Welsh Government policy of a 65% increase in capacity.

The introduction of central doors is welcome but not at the expense of the loss of seating capacity. Any reduction in capacity in summer periods (particularly between Machynlleth and Talybont) is not acceptable and considered a retrograde step.

Both the North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils and the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee are meeting with Welsh Government over these issues and will be seeking a change so that the trains will serve the Welsh Lines are fit for purpose not only today but into the future. Members will be updated on these discussions on the Web Site.



STATION CLOSURES

Transport for Wales has closed some stations with shorter platforms due to Covid 19 and social distancing (ie people moving down carriages to alight). Whilst this is understood it is important that these stations re-open as soon as it is safe to do so.



EXECUTIVE MEETS

The Executive has met regularly during the lockdown periods from Covid 19. Business has been conducted as usual with updates issued on the Web Site including responding to consultations issued by TfW or Welsh Government.

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

To be held by Zoom on Friday 13th November 2020 at 10.30am. Full details will be issued by the end of October 2020.



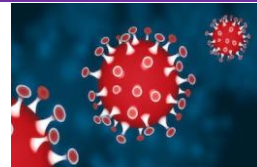
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TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR WALES

The Secretary is attending a conference on the Wales Transport Strategy in October 2020. A full report on the conference and the strategy will be reported to Members by the end of October.



COVID 19 AND TFW

Transport for Wales has been introducing measures on its trains in response to Covid 19. Congratulations to TfW in doing its best to help keep us all safe during these unprecedented times.



LACK OF PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS

Progress towards an extra shelter at Welshpool, the provision of extra information boards at both Welshpool and Dovey Junction as well as progress towards Dementia Friendly Stations has been slow. There also appears to be little movement towards improved facilities at Welshpool.

A copy of the Station Audit was promised some time ago and still has not appeared. The Executive will continue to press for work in all these areas.



TICKETS ON TRAINS

Although the Liaison Committee accepts that passengers must purchase a ticket at the earliest opportunity on trains there has been a number of cases reported of overzealous ticket inspectors at Shrewsbury. Not all people have credit or debit cards but wish to use cash. The ticket machines do not take cash and with the guards/train managers not coming down the carriages it is often not possible to purchase a ticket. However you can get an authority to travel from the machines and this is to be encouraged.



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CARNO STATION

Well done to the Carno Action Group in progressing the re-opening of Carno Station – we all now await with baited breath the decision of the Westminster Government over the provision of funding for the scheme to go ahead.



CAMBRIAN RAIL PASSES

The Cambrian Rail Passes which have been purchased will be extended when you renew Transport for Wales has announced. A welcome gesture, thanks.



BARMOUTH BRIDGE REPAIRS

Barmouth Viaduct is closed from Mid October to early November 2020 for essential repair works. Buses have been provided to replace the train service, not perfect but the works have to be completed to secure the safety of the line.



BOW STREET STATION

Works on the new Bow Street Station have been delayed by Covid 19 – it is now hoped the station will be open for spring 2021.



CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman

Cllr Trevor Roberts

Vice Chair

Cllr Michael Williams

Secretary

Robert Robinson FRICS

Contact Details

Crown House High Street

Llanfair Caereinion

SY21 0QY

Tel

01938 811378

07767 267830

Email supercommuter@mail.com