



## **CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

of a meeting of the **Cambrian Transport Committee**

held on **Friday 10th October 2025 at 11.15am**

by Zoom and in person at the Town Council Offices Aberystwyth

#### **Present were:**

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair
Cllr Jeff Smith	Vice Chair, Aberystwyth Town Council
James Nichols	Transport for Wales
Angus Eickoff	SARPA
Cllr Ian Hodge	Chair of the Association – Holywell Town Council
Cllr Alyn Williams	Ceredigion County Council
Robert Robinson	Secretary and Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

#### **Apologies:**

Cllr Richard Church	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr Norma Davies	Vice Chair of the Association – Flint Town Council
Cllr Chris Lemon	Shropshire Council
Cllr Andrew Walbank	Caersws Community Council
Dylan Wilson-Lewis	Rail Future

### **1. Welcome by the Chair**

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

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

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

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

The meeting noted the actions since the last meeting as follows:

No	Item	Status
1	Minutes to be issued for comment and then posted on website.	Completed
2	Meeting between TFW, Secretary and Cllr Mark Strong to take place later in the day.	Completed
3	Details of Welshpool Station ideas to be passed to Welshpool Town Council.	Completed



4	Survey work to be completed in July/August	Completed, see report below
5	Update on the possible Bangor to Caernarfon line proposal.	Awaited
6	Freight to be added to future agenda.	On this agenda
7	Dates for meeting with Colin Lea to be agreed.	Date awaited
8	North South Express bus consultation report to be circulated.	Completed
9	North and Mid Wales Transport Plan report to be circulated.	Completed
10	Actions from 20 <sup>th</sup> August meeting TFW/Welsh Government to be followed up.	Completed

#### **4. Survey results July/August 2025**

The meeting received the summer survey results with the following headlines:

- i) The passenger numbers compared with the same summer days of 2024 were down around 20%. Welsh Government confirmed that it is a similar picture over the whole rail network. The May survey figures showed trains overcrowded to the same levels as 2024.
- ii) The reasons for the reduction in travel were possibly due to reliability and cancellations.
- iii) The survey is issued separately from these minutes.

The next surveys will be:

- a) Holyhead connections with ferry services.
- b) May 2026.

The survey report for May and August will now be approved by the main Association meeting and then issued formally.

#### **5. Top 10 rail priorities**

TFW have asked for the group to come up with their 10 top priorities. These are attached divided into two parts – Cambrian and North Coast lines.

#### **6. Reports from rail companies**

##### **6.1 Transport for Wales**

James from Transport for Wales gave a presentation on current information with regard to the Cambrian Lines.



The main points were as follows:

- a) Slides issued with these minutes showing most of the information
- b) There was a period in early/mid-August when train services were not as good as they should have been, the situation has improved since that time.
- c) The new depot arrangements (for pumping out etc) at Pwelli are still awaited some 12 months on.
- d) The white lining to aid passengers with regards to the trains which come into the platform and leave in the same direction as they came in is still awaited. It was suggested that information on destinations could be on the side of the trains.
- e) The Shrewsbury lifts are still out of order. These are to be restored in the next two weeks.
- f) The meeting expressed concern that after 2033 (when the train leases end) the 197 class will still be retained on long distance services. The group has for some time been against the 197 class for long journeys.
- g) The 197 class units are to replace the 158 units either later in 2026 or early 2027.
- h) There is a plan to increase the number of 197 units fitted with ERTMS from 21 to 24 units.
- i) There are no plans at present to link platform 3 better to the other platforms.
- j) There is to be new rail partnership for the Newport to Gobowen section working alongside the Cambrian Lines partnership.
- k) The idea of a rail line (re-instated) from Bangor to Porthmadog was considered an important proposal.

The slides from this presentation are circulated with these minutes.

It was noted that there were reports earlier in the day that TFW was the worst rail performing company in the UK.

A meeting with Colin Lea is being arranged regarding the hourly train services and the effect of the Holyhead path from Birmingham-Shrewsbury service. A resolution to issues identified is needed to be agreed.

## **6.2 Network Rail**

Nothing to report.

## **7. Freight on the Cambrian**

To discuss freight services on the Cambrian Lines.



## **8. Caersws – car parking**

The meeting considered an update on a possible solution to the car parking issues at Caersws Station. The Community Council may have secured some land. Welshpool received funding from Welsh Government in 2015 to extend their car parking.

The meeting **AGREED** to support the extra provision of car parking at this location and to help lobby the Welsh Government and TFW for funding.

## **9. Buses**

A short report on the Powys bus changes was given. It has not been introduced well but it is hoped it will settle down very soon.

## **10. Liaison Committees**

**10.1** A rationalisation of user groups directly reporting to TFW etc is taking place. The route for communication on the Cambrian Line will be via this committee. This committee will be expanding membership to make it more inclusive.

### **10.2 Remit of this committee**

The members would be seeking to gain the following out of the user group:

- a) Up to date information from TFW and Network Rail not only at meeting but in between as well via the secretary for distribution to members.
- b) To take enquiries and respond asap (either from existing knowledge or via consulting the rail authority involved).
- c) To be involved in decisions affecting the line.
- d) To bring forward ideas, proposals and suggestions for improving the infrastructure and trains.
- e) To complete surveys and gain evidence to support proposals.
- f) To facilitate the aims and objectives agreed with TFW or Network Rail.
- g) Lobby Parliament, Welsh Government and Principal Councils as required.

## **11. Special train services and the 1630 ex Shrewsbury-Cambrian Line**

The meeting expressed concern over the loss of some 16.30 services ex Shrewsbury in favour of special trains. It was confirmed that this was not a permanent arrangement. The committee **AGREED** to object to any scheduled services being cancelled in favour of such services.



### **12.Date of next meeting**

The date of the next joint meeting is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 11am in Shrewsbury.

This is a special meeting with TFW (a range of officers) and a separate note will go out on the details. This will be an in person meeting.

To consider the following timetable of meetings for 2025.



## **PRIORITIES FOR CAMBRIAN LINE TOP TEN RAIL PRIORITIES FOR 2026 AND BEYOND**

Suggestions for consideration:

No	Priority	Details
1	Passenger capacity	Provide adequate capacity. (min 4 carriage on most trains with all services going to Birmingham) including an all year around hourly service on the Cambrian Lines.
2	New trains in 20233	When ordering new trains to use the class 197 on shorter and stopping train journeys and provide a fit for purpose train on the longer train services.
3	Cambrian Coast Line	To continue with the 4 carriage service at peak times in the summer from Machynlleth to Pwelli.
4	Shrewsbury Station	Provide better information and signage (including markings on the platform) to support passengers.
5	Caersws Station	To seek funding to provide extra car parking.
6	Stations	At Welshpool to implement the interchange the subject of the feasibility study completed some years ago and to provide lifts to enhance disabilities (currently using a steep ramp). Integration of platform 3 with the main platforms at Shrewsbury
7	Passing loops	Installation of more passing loops to aid service delivery.
8	Ticketing	To have a single simple train ticketing system.
9	Liaison groups	To have a standardised list of groups (one for each area) with a proper remit for each.
10	North-South links	Complete feasibility study into restoring the Bangor to Porthmadog rail link.
11	Freight	To expand freight services availability on the Cambrian Line as long as it does not affect the passenger service plans.
12	Carno Station	To clarify the status of re-opening this station on the Cambrian Lines.





## **PRIORITIES FOR THE NORTH COAST LINE**

### **TOP TEN RAIL PRIORITIES FOR 2026 AND BEYOND**

Suggestions for consideration:

No	Priority	Details
1	Passenger capacity	Provide adequate capacity on all lines. (min 3 or 4 carriage trains on all services)
2	Trains fit for purpose	When ordering new trains to use the class 197 on shorter and stopping train journeys and provide a fit for purpose train on the longer train services.
3	North-South links	Complete feasibility study into restoring the Bangor to Porthmadog rail link.
4	Liaison groups	To have a standardised list of groups (one for each area) with a proper remit for each.
5	Holywell station	To complete the provision of a new station at Holywell.
6	Shrewsbury Station	Provide better information and signage (including markings on the platform) to support passengers.
7	Transport interchange	To where possible introduce interchanges where buses and trains are co-ordinated.
8	Ticketing	To have a single simple train ticketing system.
9	Dementia	To ensure all stations are dementia friendly. To investigate and improve situations where the platform is lower and further away from the trains creating a hazard for those boarding or alighting to trains.
10	Level crossings	To seek an urgent resolution to the issues at Deganwy to enable a better train service to Llandudno.