



NORTH COAST TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING NO 3

held by Zoom on
Friday 19th November 2021 at 10.30am

Present were:

Cllr Peter Morton	Chair
Gail Jones	Transport for Wales
Elisa Jackson	Transport for Wales
Nick Smith	West Coast Partnership (Avanti)
Cllr Ian Hodge	Holywell Town Council
Cllr Alyn Ashworth	Vice Chair and Denbigh Town Council
Cllr Barry Mellor	Rhyl Town Council
Cllr Paul Richards	Bay of Colwyn Town Council
Bob Saxby	Rail Future
Robert Robinson	Secretary

1. Chairs welcome

The meeting received a welcome to the meeting from the Chair.

2. Minutes

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

3. Actions since last meeting

The meeting noted the actions taken since the last meeting:

No	Item	Status
1	Minutes to be circulated to all present	Completed
2	Issue approved copy of the Station Audit	Completed
3	Issue approved copy of the Dementia Audit	Completed
4	Passenger seats per day pre Covid against new train and timetable delivery to be issues.	Awaited from TfW



5. Report from the Secretary

The Secretary reported on a meeting held with TfW and Welsh Government and matters raised by local people with the following points of note:

- i) TfW felt that the culture at present on the railways is that 95% of trains running on time is acceptable. This is not the case.
- ii) Train delays are getting worse not better with no apparent explanations given or confirmation that the issues are being addressed.
- iii) Information systems are failing with passengers often confused by messages or not receiving the information they need.
- iv) Train announcements are poor which it is felt is down to Train Manager training. (on one train there were two guards on the journey, one was very muffled with the messages and the other very clear). This indicates that the systems are fine and that it may be user error.
- v) Seat numbers pre-covid and when the new trains arrived still not produced by TfW.
- vi) A snapshot of the North Wales service was tabled from 9am to 10.30am the day of the meeting as an example of an average day on the North Coast:
 - 0732 Holyhead train 27 minutes late
 - 0745 Llandudno train cancelled
 - 0921 Llandudno train cancelled
 - 0948 Holyhead train 11 minutes late
 - 0950 Llandudno train 10 minutes lateTrain times taken at Llandudno Junction Station.

6. Transport for Wales (stakeholder)

Gail Jones outlined some items of interest as follows:

- i) Line closure for track works between Llandudno Junction and Holyhead will take place 21st to 28th November.
- ii) Mock-up of new trains now ready at Taffs Well near Cardiff. Dates and times for a visit will be made available in the New Year. A new Community Rail Committee to be set up, details are available online and members were encouraged to apply.
- iii) A presentation on the North Wales Metro to be made available for the next meeting.

The subjects raised in this part of the agenda were:

- i) Information was requested regarding the Manchester Airport proposed changes involving the North Coast Line.
- ii) Poor services on the line continue with many late running and cancelled trains.



- iii) Overcrowding of trains an issue and with Covid 19 still around this is not acceptable.
- iv) Holywell Station is due for re-opening and things appear to be proceeding positively.

Gail Jones agreed to report back to the Committee via the Secretary on the matters raised.

7. Transport for Wales (Community Rail)

Elise Jackson had just started in her role. No doubt there will be more to report at the next meeting.

8. West Coast Partnership (Avanti)

Nick Smith gave a presentation on the work of the Partnership along with what was planned for the future.

The subjects raised in this part of the agenda were:

- i) 23 new Hitachi Trains due to arrive in the next few years to replace the Voyager's – 5 car units – approx. 40 extra seats per train.
- ii) Significant station improvements taking place at the England end of the line.
- iii) There is a £6m fund available for station improvements to those stations that are not managed by Avanti but where their trains call.
- iv) The Partnership is working with Transport for Wales to deliver its aims and objectives particularly with regards to tourism.
- v) Currently 2 trains a day (could be more convenient times) Revised service due in May 2022. Currently passenger numbers are back to 90-05% of pre Covid 19 levels.
- vi) If there are any overcrowded trains on the Avanti Service then Nick Smith would like to know which ones they are so that the matter can be addressed.
- vii) Decarbonising of trains now moving forward. New trains will be electric to Crewe and diesel thereafter. Electrification of the North Coast is not currently in the 10 year plan.
- viii) Some drivers now based at Holyhead to improve availability of crews.
- ix) There is a new timetable proposed for December 2022 and there will be a consultation on this. The Secretary will receive details for circulation.
- x) A number of passengers have found that their 'off peak' tickets to North Wales and West Wales have not been accepted in the Peak Period. There is an arrangement in place to accept these as there are no other trains later. Nick Smith is to investigate and confirm that this will be resolved and notify the Secretary.
- xi) The Partnership is still taking in the news regarding HS2 not now linking with Leeds.



9. Network Rail

There is now a new officer for North Wales and they will be invited to the next meeting.

10. British Transport Police

No report available.

11. North Wales Metro

A presentation is to be made to the next meeting on the North Wales Metro.

12. Station Audit

The Station and Dementia Audits have been issued. Transport for Wales is due to report back to the meeting on progress with the reports.

13. Any other business

The meeting briefly discussed the following two topics:

- i) Possible freight on the line.
- ii) Possible post trains on the line.
- iii) The Bangor Caernarvon proposed re-opening of the line.
- iv) Hydrogen trains (very expensive)

14. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Friday 14th January 2022 at 10.30am by Zoom.

15. Actions to be taken forward from the meeting

The following actions are to be taken forward from the meeting:

Ref	Item	By who
1	Minutes of the meeting to be circulated and posted on the web site at www.northwalesassociation.org.uk ,	Secretary
2	Presentation on the North Wales Metro to be given to the next meeting.	Nick Smith
3	Gail Jones to come back to the Secretary on matters raised affecting them.	Gail Jones
4	Check to be made on why Saturday services to Llandudno are so poor.	Gail Jones
5	Nick Smith to come back to the Secretary on matters raised affecting them.	Nick Smith
6	Arriva Buses to be asked to attend the next meeting	Secretary