



NORTH COAST TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING NO 4

held by Zoom on
Friday 14th January 2022 at 10.30am

Present were:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cllr Peter Morton | Chair |
| Gail Jones | Transport for Wales |
| Elise Jackson | Transport for Wales |
| Alex Fortune | Transport for Wales |
| Michael Davies | Meni Bridge Town Council |
| Cllr Ian Hodge | Holywell Town Council |
| Cllr Alyn Ashworth | Vice Chair and Denbigh Town Council |
| Cllr Barry Mellor | Rhyl Town Council |
| Bob Saxby | Rail Future |
| Vivienne | |
| Robert Robinson | Secretary |

Apologies for absence were received from:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nick Smith | West Coast Partnership (Avanti) |
| Cllr Paul Richards | Bay of Colwyn Town Council |

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 received an update on the actions taken since the last meeting.

The secretary confirmed that he had been in contact with Arriva Buses and it is hoped they will attend the next meeting.

4. North Wales Metro

The meeting received a presentation from Transport for Wales on the North Wales Metro. Two of the maps presented are attached to these minutes.

The main points of note were:

- i) There will be greater capacity on the trains.
- ii) Buses will integrate with train services.
- iii) Integrated ticket systems.



Continued:

- iv) Cheaper travel.
- v) New trains and buses.
- vi) Quicker journey times.
- vii) North Coast service will be 4 stopping trains and 1 express ph.
- viii) Maintaining existing services a priority.
- ix) New stations proposed for Holywell, Deeside, Broughton and Wrexham.
- x) Liverpool – Wrexham line to work towards 4 trains an hour.
- xi) Working with Network Rail on a longer term project of electrification.
- xii) Improvements to Chester station to be implemented.
- xiii) North Wales Coast will be the first to have the new trains.
- xiv) Park and ride services to be expanded.

5. Transport for Wales

It was noted that although the train service in the latter part of 2021 was very poor things had improved over the last few weeks following the introduction of reduced services (Covid issues).

The main topics covered were:

- i) Apparently the new trains will have better toilet facilities – however there is still only one toilet per 2 car unit. Alex is to take back the dissatisfaction that this is the case.
- ii) There is poor audible announcements on most of the trains. This is probably down to training. Alex is to take this back for action.
- iii) Disabled access was raised, this is improving and more is being done.
- iv) Llandudno was cited as a Community Hub, however it closes at 3pm at the present time. Alex is to take this away to seek longer opening hours.
- v) The crossing point between Llandudno Junction and Llandudno is still an issue which has not been resolved.
- vi) Overcrowding in the summer months is still an issue. Transport for Wales is working on solutions to this.
- vii) The Station Audit and Dementia is progressing albeit slowly.

6. Avanti

The update from Avanti is attached to these minutes.

7. Network Rail

There was no report from Network Rail.

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday 8th April 2022 at 10.30am by Zoom.



9. Actions to be taken forward from the meeting:

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

| No | Item | Action by |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1 | Minutes to be posted on web site and emailed to members. | Robert |
| 2 | Avanti updates to be added to the minutes. | Robert |
| 3 | Transport for Wales to report back on issues raised asap. | Alex |
| 4 | Train announcements issues to be addressed urgently. | Alex |
| 5 | Agenda to be sent out to members for the next meeting and posted on the web site. | Robert |

Please note change of email address for the Secretary to:
supercommuter@mail.com

MAP FROM NORTH WALES METROL PRESENTATION





UPDATE FROM AVANTI TRAINS (Nick Smith)

There are two main matters to let Committee members know about – the December 2022 Consultation and our amended 4 trains per hour timetable.

Dec22 - West Coast Partnership were planning to launch a consultation before Christmas on a new timetable for the West Coast Mainline to be introduced from December 2022. Unfortunately due to ongoing uncertainty around the pandemic we do not believe currently the time is right to set out plans for future timetables until we have a better steer on the 'return to rail'. We however remain committed to working closely with our stakeholders and industry partners to deliver the best possible timetable for our customers; one that strikes the best balance between connectivity and value for money for taxpayers.

Amended Timetable - From **Monday 17 January 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022**, we will be introducing a reduced weekday timetable on the West Coast Main Line to manage staff shortages as a result of the rise in the Omicron variant and to provide a reliable service, so our customers can travel with confidence. In line with government guidance and collaboration with Network Rail, the changes are designed to provide greater certainty for customers of the timetable offer and reduce the requirement for short notice cancellations which are currently being managed on a day-to-day basis. The attached briefing was issued to stakeholders on Wednesday. The Summary below shows the 4tph plan.



| | |
|--|--|
| Manchester | One train per hour to Manchester calling at Milton Keynes, Stoke-on-Trent, Macclesfield and Stockport. An additional service via Crewe will operate at key times of the day. |
| West Midlands and Edinburgh/Blackpool | One train per hour to Wolverhampton and Edinburgh/Blackpool, calling at Watford Junction, Milton Keynes, Rugby, Coventry, Birmingham International, Birmingham New Street, Sandwell and Dudley, Wolverhampton, Crewe, Warrington, Wigan, and Preston. One train every two hours will continue to Edinburgh, and one train every two hours will continue to Blackpool/Preston. |
| Glasgow | One train per hour to Glasgow, calling at Crewe, Warrington, Wigan, Preston, Lancaster, Oxenholme/Penrith and Carlisle. |
| Liverpool | One train per hour to Liverpool, calling at Stafford, Crewe, and Runcorn. |
| Holyhead/Chester | One train per day will run in each direction between London Euston and Holyhead – 0551 Holyhead – Euston; 1810 Euston – Holyhead. A shuttle service will operate between Holyhead and Crewe. |
| Shrewsbury/Wrexham | A normal service will be retained. |

The minutes from the last meeting noted an action as follows - *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.* I am waiting for my colleague to get back to me on that and will update you as soon as possible.

Nick Smith Avanti Trains