

# NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



## CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

#### of a meeting of the Cambrian Lines

held on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 11.45am** at  
The offices of Aberystwyth Town Council Baker Street Aberystwyth  
and by zoom

#### **Present**

Cllr Trevor Roberts	Chair
Cllr Michael Williams	Vice Chair
Gail Jones	Transport for Wales
Ann Elias	Ceredigion Council
Cllr Jeremy Barnes	Carno Action Grp & Carno Community Council
Angus Eickhoff	SARPA
Cllr Michael Davies	Beaumaris Town Council
Cllr John Ellison	Carno Action Grp & Carno Community Council
David Evans	Rail Future
Cllr P Gillam	
Cllr Ann Lloyd-Jones	Gwynedd Council
Cllr D Owen	
Cllr Bob Saxby	Rail future (North Wales Rep)
Ken Law	Welshpool Facebook Group
David Taylor	Rail Future
David Wilcox	Penmaenmawr town council
Cllr Alan Williams	Aberystwyth Town & Ceredigion Council

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Richard Church	Welshpool Town Council
Wendy Lewis	Welshpool Town Council
Cllr Jeff Smith	Aberystwyth Town Council
Cllr Andrew Wallbank	Caersws Community Council
Cllr Eryl Jones-Williams	Gwynedd County Council
Cllr Dylan Wilson Lewis	Rail Future (Cambrian)
Cllr Andrew Wood	

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## CAMBRIAN TRANSPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

### 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 Cambrian meeting. (minutes posted on website)

### 3. Actions since last meeting

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

No	Action	By
1	Issue minutes in draft and publish on the website.	Completed
2	Meeting with TFW/Network Rail on timetables to be arranged.	Report at this meeting
3	Meetings on station audits and Welshpool Station to be actioned.	No meeting held to date
4	Updates to be introduced.	Completed
5	Discussions on Welshpool Station footbridge to be completed.	Report at this meeting
6	Survey to be taken forward.	Completed
7	Issue of replacement bus timetables to be taken forward.	Raised with authorities

### 4. Closure for works

The meeting noted the following line closures for works:

Machynlleth to Aberystwyth  
Coast line

### 5. Transport for Wales report

The meeting received a report from Gail Jones of Transport for Wales as follows:



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- i) The Welshpool Station footbridge is still under discussion. However it was confirmed that the bridge will be gritted this winter come what may.
- ii) Car parking proposals for Welshpool station were outlined. There were two plans – one charging for the town side car park and not the rear one – one free parking retained. In both cases the schemes involved litter picking and enforcement of parking. Although this might help with enforcement the need for more car parking at Welshpool is still an issue. The meeting was of the view that car park charges for only one car park at the station would not work and recommended the free parking scheme.
- iii) Survey work on the Welshpool footbridge has shown some defects on the steps, this is being repaired.
- iv) Help points are to be installed on all stations which do not have them.
- v) The meeting was in support of the proposal to suggest the 158 fleet is retained for the Cambrian Lines releasing more 197 units to cover over lines.
- vi) The replacement bus services when the Coast line was closed went very well.
- vii) A meeting is to be arranged with the station audit team asap.

### **6. Update on Carno Station**

The meeting was updated on the Carno Station re-opening proposal. Some issues with a lorry park and Powys County Council are being encountered which would restrict the station re-opening. Funding has been applied for but it is understood that Westminster has declined the application. Confirmation of this is awaited.

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#### 11. Surveys

The meeting received a presentation on the surveys completed in August on all the North Wales lines (Chester/Holyhead, Chester/Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury/Aberystwyth and Cambrian Coast). The report was considered in some detail with the following points of note:

- i) The statement 'unsafe – bordering on dangerous – possible illegal' was accepted but it was felt that the press release should be a little lighter with only the word 'unsafe on some trains' used. Also noting that train is still a good way to travel.
- ii) Care with issuing the report into the public domain at the same time as politicians.
- iii) After the meeting Ann Alias made available a copy of the ORR statement on overcrowding. This says that there is little evidence of unsafe trains. This report will inform the ORR.
- iv) Various experiences were offered supporting the findings of the survey report.
- v) The meeting **SUPPORTED** the report.
- vi) ***This report is to be private and confidential until its release after the Association meeting on or just after 24<sup>th</sup> October.***

#### 12. Thanks

Cllr Michael Williams was supported by the meeting in thanking all those involved with the survey.

#### 13. Dates of future meetings

The meeting noted the date of the next meeting as follows:

North Wales/Cambrian Transport – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10.30am