

Report to the Cambrian Coast Line Conference

NEW ROUTE MANAGING DIRECTOR APPOINTED

In August Andy Thomas joined Network Rail as the new Wales Route Managing Director.

Born and bred in Pembrokeshire, Andy has enjoyed a wide-ranging international career in rail, transport and industry.

This has included senior roles at Transport for New South Wales, Transport for London, and most recently as managing director of the Mass Transit Metro in Hyderabad, India.

Andy has made it clear that his priority is to ensure the Wales Route is delivering on the priorities of elected representatives and the communities they represent.

Working with our industry partners Andy wants to ensure that we are delivering for passengers and our lineside neighbours.

There is a major deepening of devolution taking place within Network Rail that will see many more decisions taken at route level.

As part of that process, and given his background, Andy is particularly keen to ensure the railway and the wider transport sector, delivers for rural communities in Wales, as well as our major towns and cities.



Andy Thomas, the new Wales route managing director



The iconic Barmouth viaduct was temporarily closed to rail passengers after a fire last month

BARMOUTH VIADCUT REOPENS AFTER FIRE

As the conference will be aware, services on the Cambrian Coast line were disrupted last month following the closure of the Barmouth Viaduct due to a fire.

The line between Barmouth and Tywyn was closed between Tuesday 4 October and Monday 10 October with a rail replacement bus service in operation.

Network Rail engineers worked tirelessly to reopen the line after a fire caused localised damage to one of the viaduct spans.

Some remedial works will continue to take place over the coming weeks, with work taking place overnight and at weekends when trains aren't scheduled to run.

The pedestrian walkway has not been affected by the fire and will remain open for the duration of the work.

Mark Peters, Asset Engineer, is attending on the 11th November to present to the Cambrian Coast line Conference and plans to talk in more detail around Network Rail's response to the fire, as well as updating the conference on our future plans for this iconic structure.

LEVEL CROSSINGS UPDATE

As confirmed following the last meeting, we are planning to replace Talwrn Bach level crossing, which is currently an ACOL crossing (Automatic open crossing, locally monitored) and we have plans to deliver a complete renewal. Once this work has been completed the crossing will be an ABCL (Automatic barrier crossing, locally monitored).

We are currently aiming to deliver the work at Talwrn Bach in 2018 as part of a wider package of level crossing renewals we are delivering in the Porthmadog area. As part of this project we are also renewing Porthmadog TMOB crossing (Traincrew operated barriers) with a newer TMOB crossing with additional standing lights to protect pedestrians.

We are also undertaking a 'like for like' renewal of Ynyslas AHBC (Automatic half barrier crossing) with standing lights for pedestrians and cameras to record motorists that run red lights. Aberleri AHBC is also being renewed like for like with standing red lights for improved pedestrian safety.



Talwrn Bach level crossing

COMMUNITY RAIL

Community Rail involves local people in the development and promotion of local and rural routes, services and stations. It allows communities to get directly involved improving the railway environment through use of redundant buildings, provision of additional services such as cafes and the improvement of railway land.

In most respects, community rail routes are no different from the rest of the railway. They remain connected to the national rail network. Train Operating Companies run trains and stations. Network Rail



Community Rail: making a difference at Tywyn Station

maintains the track, signals, bridges and tunnels.

What sets them apart is their Rail Partnerships, which work with the rail industry and local authorities to help market the line and to improve stations, train services, bus links and access, all of which help to increase passenger numbers.

The Cambrian line is well represented when it comes to community rail which is fantastic for our passengers and communities along the line who see an already picturesque route further enhanced by the hard work of volunteers.

Network Rail's work to maintain the network is assisted greatly by these schemes and provides Network Rail with more passenger focused network.

Current schemes along the Cambrian Coast line include: Tywyn, Tywyn station, Penychain and Criccieth (pictured above). Our customer manager, Ian Messner, has asked me to pass on thanks to those licence holders who took part in the 2016 Community Rail survey.

Ian is developing a series of actions in order to further enhance the relationship between Network Rail and our community rail partnerships in the future.

Ian would also welcome suggestions in terms of new community rail schemes along the Cambrian Coast line and be contacted via: ian.messner@networkrail.co.uk.