

Complete Agenda

Democratic Service Swyddfa'r Cyngor CAERNARFON Gwynedd LL55 1SH

Meeting

CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

Date and Time

10.30 am, FRIDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Location

Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 3/2/11

CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Cyngor Gwynedd

Councillors:

Dylan Bullard
E. Selwyn Griffiths
Louise Hughes
Anne Lloyd Jones
Eryl Jones-Williams
Dewi Owen
Gwynfor Owen
Angela Russell
Eirwyn Williams
Owain Williams

Ceredigion County Council

Awaiting Nomination

Powys County Council

Councillor J M Williams

Other Members:

Lowri Joyce Transport For Wales

Annwen Hughes Snowdonia National Park Authority

Councillor J M Williams Powys County Council

Liz Saville Roberts Dwyfor/Meirionnydd Member of Parliament

Claire Britton Ffestiniog Railway

Councillor Trevor Roberts Shrewsbury/Aberyswyth Railway Committee

David Crunkhorn Arriva Trains Wales

Samuel Hadley Network Rail

Helen Lewis Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn

Joyce Watson MS Regional Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales

Stuart Williams Talyllyn Railway

Roger Goodhew Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth Passenger Association

Inspector. Karl Anderson British Transport Police
Delwyn Evans Meirionnydd Access Group

Councillor Alun Wyn Evans Meirionnydd Representative of One Voice Wales Councillor Trefor Jones Dwyfor Representative of One Voice Wales

Claire Williams Cambrian Railway Partnership
Chris Wilson Ceredigion County Council
Ann Elias Ceredigion County Council

Aled Williams Ysgol Ardudwy

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To accept any apologies for absence

2. <u>DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST</u>

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. **URGENT MATTERS**

To consider any business which the Chairman decides is urgent.

4. MINUTES 5 - 9

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st of October 2021

5. TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM SERVICES

- Network Rail
- Transport for Wales
- British Transport Police

6. FUTURE REMIT FOR THE CAMBRIAN COAST CONFERENCE 10 - 16

To discuss a suggestion made by the Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee (SARLC) to combine both the SARLC and the Coast Committees

7. FORMAL QUESTIONS

17

To receive responses to the questions enclosed herewith received since the previous meeting.

Agenda Item 4

CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE

01-10-21

Present:

Cllr. Dewi Owen (Gwynedd Council)

Cllr. Gwynfor Owen (Gwynedd Council)

Cllr. Louise Hughes (Gwynedd Council)

Cllr. Anne Lloyd Jones (Gwynedd Council)

Cllr. Eryl Jones-Williams (Gwynedd Council)

Cllr. Angela Russell (Gwynedd Council)

Cllr. Annwen Hughes (Snowdonia National Park Authority Representative)

Bedwyr Gwilym (Dwyfor & Meirionnydd AM Office) BG

Ann Elias (Ceredigion County Council)

Clare Britton (Ffestiniog Railway)

Rhian Williams (Integrated Transport and Road Safety Manager, Gwynedd Council) Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer) **LHE**

Sam Hadley (Network Rail) **SH** Lowri Joyce (Transport for Wales) **LJ** Kevin Collins (Network Rail) **KC**

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams was re-elected as Chair for 2021-22.

Councillor Gwynfor Owen was welcomed to his first meeting of this Committee

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Delwyn Evans was re-elected as Vice-chair for 2021/22.

3. **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Eirwyn Williams, (Gwynedd Council), Cllr. Selwyn Griffiths (Gwynedd Council), Cllr. Gareth Griffith (Cabinet Member for the Environment - Gwynedd Council), Liz Saville Roberts (Dwyfor Meirionnydd MP), Mabon ap Gwynfor (Dwyfor Meirionnydd MS), Claire Williams (Cambrian Railways Partnership Officer), Cllr. Trevor Roberts (Aberystwyth/Shrewsbury Railway), Cllr. Michael Williams (Powys Council), Stuart Williams (Tal-y-llyn Railway), David Crunkhorn (Transport for Wales), Aled Williams (Ysgol Ardudwy), Delwyn Evans (Meirionnydd Access Group)

4. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

5. **URGENT ITEMS**

None to note

6. **MINUTES**

The Chair accepted the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee, held on 8 November 2019, as a true record.

7. UPDATE BY TRANSPORT FOR WALES

Lowri Joyce, Transport for Wales, was welcomed to the meeting to present an update on the activities of Transport for Wales.

Since the relaxation of the covid 19 restrictions over the summer, in September 2021 a general increase had been seen of 8.5% in service use that was by now approximately 85% of the 'normal pre-covid' use. It was added that more services had re-opened between south and north Wales and it was proposed to add more in March 2022. It was noted that it was difficult to compare the situation with the pre-pandemic period as several changes had been implemented. It was also noted that the public continued to be concerned about travelling on public transport, however, Transport for Wales sought to ensure that they kept people safe.

In response to all the changes it was reported that workshops were being conducted to seek feedback and views on the service and there was a questionnaire to be circulated.

LJ noted that she had been appointed as Head of Engagement (temporary) with Transport for Wales - In the meantime, LJ would inform LHE regarding who will report on Transport for Wales services to the committee.

During the ensuing discussion, the following observations were noted:

- Need to ensure that train and bus connections were effective. It appeared that there was a lack of awareness by bus drivers of train time connections
- Assurance was needed that the stations closed during the pandemic would reopen.
- There were local concerns that train coaches were overcrowded two coaches were insufficient
- There were concerns that bus drivers, who ensured service continuation as a result of the renovation work to Barmouth viaduct, were not local drivers. They did not know the area and did not stop in prominent stops to pick up travellers.
- Posters were required at Llandanwg station to highlight taxi services LJ to check this with David Crunkhorn
- Buses serving Talwrn Bach Station causing congestion

In response to a question regarding safe routes to railway stations and a request by Councillor Gwynfor Owen (Harlech/Talsarnau Member) for the Committee to support him in a request for the various authorities to provide a safe walking/cycling path to Tŷ Gwyn station from Ynys and Glan y Wern, LJ noted that Transport for Wales would be supportive of the application and highlighted that a strategy was being drafted on safe routes matters. It was added that the application would be in keeping with this strategy.

In response to a comment regarding the lack of toilets on the new trains and a reduction in the number of seats, it was noted that it had to be ensured that every element was considered such as sufficient space for prams, wheelchairs, bags, bicycles and the number of toilets.

It was suggested that it would be useful for Members to see a model of the new coaches prior to their implementation on the railway - LJ to share details.

Although the investment into Barmouth Viaduct was to be welcomed, it was accepted that problems had arisen - LJ was thanked for resolving the concerns of residents regarding the bus service to Barmouth and the problems with the journeys of schoolchildren that had been resolved following discussions with the Education Department.

Lowri Joyce was thanked for the update and best wishes were extended to her in her new post.

8. UPDATE BY NETWORK RAIL

Sam Hadley, Wales Route Public Affairs Manager, was welcomed to the meeting and he introduced Kevin Collins (Network Rail Route Delivery Director (Wales)) to respond directly to matters regarding work on the boundary wall on the A493 between Llwyngwril and Friog.

Llangelynnin Community Council wanted to know when the long-awaited work of installing crash barriers and to repair the boundary wall on the A493 between Llwyngwril and Friog would commence. It was reported that the matter had been submitted to Gwynedd Council in January 2015, however, the matter had been transferred to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in May 2015, as NRW were responsible for the boundary wall and the crash barrier. The complaint had been drawn to the attention of the Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Committee in March 2017 and had been discussed several times since then and remained unresolved.

KC noted that the work was now on Network Rail's priority list and a budget and resources had been earmarked for this. A pledge was made that there would be better communication with local residents and a site visit would be organised with local Councillors. It was added that stakeholders needed to be reassured that the work was being prioritised and although there was no time schedule for the work, he would be willing to present an update at the next meeting.

- SH to arrange for a letter to be sent to local residents informing them of what was proposed.
- Update to be submitted to the next meeting

In response, Councillor Louise Hughes (Member for Llangelynnin) thanked the officer and stated that the condition of the wall was now disastrous and she was very supportive of Network Rail's response. When it was asked for a possible date, KC noted that he could not give a specific date but once a time schedule was in place, the dates would be shared with SH and LHE. He accepted there had been difficulties in the past, however, he was confident that the response highlighted Network Rail's intention to improve the situation.

The dates of the work time schedule to be shared with SH and LHE.

Mr Collins was thanked for attending the meeting and for the update.

Glandulas Project (Black Bridge) near Machynlleth

That the work of erecting the bridge over afon Dulas had been completed. The bridge had been erected one metre higher to reduce the impact of flooding and to prevent the closure of the line as a result to the river level rising during storms and heavy rain.

It was noted that Councillor Michael Williams and Councillor Trevor Roberts had been campaigning for some time regarding this. The work was welcomed and this would prevent serious delays for Cambrian Railway services.

Shrewsbury Station

In response to a question about a scheme to improve Shrewsbury station and the opportunity to increase the number of platforms for Cambrian Railway services, it was noted that discussions were being held with Transport for Wales regarding the re-use of platforms in Shrewsbury and the intention was to increase the number of platforms to offer more services. It was suggested that BG should contact SH and LJ directly to receive further information.

The officers were thanked for the updates.

9. UPDATE ON UPGRADING BARMOUTH VIADUCT

It was reported that part 2 of the 3-year project was now underway and this included the removal of timber work. It was noted that weekly meetings would be held to discuss progress and they were confident that the work would be completed by 12 December 2021 and the railway would re-open. It was noted that site visits had taken place with local Councillors and everyone was very supportive of the project and appreciated the investment.

It was suggested that there was a need to ensure that the history of the event was recorded and ideas were requested regarding what could be made educationally, historically and creatively to celebrate this event. **Ideas to be submitted to SH**

10. RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONS

Formal written questions had been received from Llangelynnin Community Council and Llanbedr Community Council.

Llangelynnin Community Council - work to repair the boundary wall and installation of crash barriers on the A493 between Llwyngwril and Friog. (The response had already been discussed in item 8 above). Councillor Louise Hughes (Llangelynnin Local Member) accepted the response and would report back to the Community Council.

Llangelynnin Community Council

Regarding installing barriers across the road, SH highlighted that he had discussed the matter with the assets team. He noted that there was a plan afoot to improve the station and it was proposed to add a barrier to the level crossing. He confirmed that there was a budget for the work and although there was no specific time-table, he suggested that the work would be undertaken at the end of the summer 2022 season. He added that there would also be an access ramp added to the back of the platform this would be an improvement.

It was added that Llanbedr residents were very disappointed that there had only been expenditure and improvements to Tŷ Gwyn and Llandanwg stations and not to Llanbedr that was a very busy station. It was asked if there were plans to upgrade the station in the future. SH noted that he would share the concerns with the Senior Management of Network Rail. He asked for ideas regarding what they would like and there may be a budget available (2022/23) for renewal.

In response, Councillor Annwen Hughes (Llanbedr Member) noted that with the coming of the Llanbedr bypass and developments in the airfield, the possibility of a 106 agreement could be considered that would contribute financially to railway matters.

The Chair noted that Llanbedr Station had been neglected and it had been a matter of concern for years - any adaptations, improvements were to be welcomed. In response, SH noted that it would be possible to organise a visit to the Station to discuss the possibilities. SH to organise for the Senior Management of Network Rail and Transport for Wales officers to meet with the Community Council to discuss the possibilities - SH to share the details.

To extend thanks for the questions and for the favourable responses received from the officers.

Other matters:

- a) Railway workers avoiding wearing face coverings Cllr. Anne Lloyd Jones highlighted that a matter had been brought to her attention that some railway workers did not wear face coverings in shops.
 - Cllr Anne Lloyd Jones would note the concerns in an email to SH.
 - SH to refer the concern on to the Project Managers as an urgent matter for them to ensure that railway workers comply with covid guidelines.
- b) Bedwyr Gwilym highlighted
 - that the APPG Heritage Rail Group Report had been published copy to be shared with Committee Members
 - that an application for funding had been submitted (March 2021) to conduct a short study on the potential train service between Bangor and Afonwen - it was agreed for the matter to be an item at the next meeting

11. BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE REPORT

No representative from the British Transport Police was present to submit a report

LHE to ensure that a written report is submitted, if a representative cannot attend in the future.

The meeting commenced at 10:30am and concluded at 11:40.

CHAIR

AGENDA

for a meeting of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee to be held on Friday 12th November 2021 at 11.15am by Zoom

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies received.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held in July 2021

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting. (see attached)

4. Actions taken forward from last meeting

The meeting noted the list of actions to be taken forward and their status as follows:

No	Action	Status
1	Prepare and circulate minutes of the meeting.	Completed
2	Arrange Welsh Government Meeting regarding Network Rail matters.	Secretary
3	Continue to gain information required from TfW.	Still awaited
4	Obtain passenger seating comparison between 2018	Nothing from TfW –
	and 2023 proposed timetable.	worked it out
		ourselves
5	Add Borth station issues to Station Audit.	Completed
6	Continue with seeking a satisfactory response with	Ongoing
	regard to train formation issues.	
7	Arrange for a funding report for the next meeting.	
8	Chase up response to station audits.	Completed
9	Chase up improvements to Welshpool Station.	No response
10	Welsh translation of Station Audit Reports.	No progress
11	Welshpool station bridge issues.	Ongoing

5. Report on matters since last meeting

To report on the following:

- a) Meeting with Russell George and CEO of Transport for Wales.
- b) Complaints by passengers regarding reliability on the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth line.
- c) Timetable meeting hosted by Transport for Wales.
- d) Delay in hourly train services.
- e) Train designs

6. Rail reports

- 6.1 Report from Transport for Wales for this meeting.
- 6.2 Report from Network Rail for this meeting.
- 6.3 Train formations (see appendix B).
- 6.4 Update on Station Audits.
- 6.5 Welshpool Station improvements.

7. Carno Station re-opening

The meeting received an update on this subject.

It was noted that a decision was still awaited from Welsh Government.

8. Future of the Committee

To discuss the following:

a) Background

The Committee has been in existence for over 30 years and in the past few years (from 2008 to date) has been active in promoting and gaining results for both the main line and the coast line. An equal amount of time is allotted to both the main and coast lines by the Committee and the Secretary. From this background the Executive Officers feel that a discussion should take place regarding the future remit of the group.

b) The Committee remit for the future

The Liaison Committee is asked to consider the various options into the future as follows:

- i) Change the name of the Committee to reflect the work that it does.

 The name would reflect the work done for all the Cambrian Lines.
- ii) Combine both the SALC and the Coast Committees.
 As the work of both committees is similar to combine both into one group which would allow more co-ordination between the lines.
- iii) Stay as we are but with more focus on the main line and coast line matters taking a lesser role.

The meeting would spend time on main line matters with coast line activities being peripheral to the main subjects.

iv) To retain SARLC but to deal with main line matters only.

To confirm the remit of the committee to deal with main line matters only.

c) The name of the Committee to reflect its work

To consider the name of the committee once a decision on the above has been taken at the February meeting. This will give time for members to consider the above.

d) Matters to consider

Some thoughts to consider when discussing the above:

- a) What is best for two lines leaving personalities out of it?
- b) Are we stronger together?
- c) Location of meetings to suit attendees?
- d) Co-ordination of activities?
- e) Ensuring decisions or discussions are not in conflict with each other?
- f) Time saving for people in both Committees?

9. Dates of meetings

To note the schedule for the quarterly 2022 meetings as set out below:

Friday 4th February 2022 Friday 20th May 2022 Friday 15th July 2022 Friday 14th October 2022

Meetings will be held in person at Machynlleth if possible otherwise by Zoom at 11.15am.

MINUTES

of a meeting of the Shrewsbury Aberystwyth Rail Liaison Committee held on Friday 16th July 2021 at 11.15am by Zoom

Present were

Cllr Trevor Roberts Chair

Cllr Jeremy Barnes Carno Action Group
Cllr Richard Church Welshpool Town Council
John Ellison Carno Action Group
Ann Lloyd-Jones Gwynedd Council
Cllr Ray Quant Ceredigion Council

Cllr Peter Morton North Coast Transport liaison Committee

Cllr Tony Parsons Shropshire Council

Jeff Smith SARPA

Cllr Alyn Williams Ceredigion Council
Stuart Williams Talyllyn Railway (part)
Cllr Dylan Wilson-Lewis Aberystwyth Town Council

Roger Woodhouse Talyllyn Railway

Robert Robinson Secretary

Apologies received

Cllr Michael Williams Vice Chair, Cllr Eryl Jones- Williams, Cllr Mair Benjamin and Lowri Joyce.

1. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held in May 2021

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

3. Actions taken forward from last meeting

The meeting noted the list of actions to be taken forward and their status as follows:

Ref	Item	Status
1	Minutes of meeting to be posted on web site	Completed
2	Details of who is responsible for train formations	Still no response from TfW
3	Station Audit to be completed and circulated	Completed
4	Station Dementia Plan to be completed and circulated	Completed
5	Welsh Translation of Audits to be researched	Awaiting confirmation of a translator
6	Letter to Minister over the concerns about train formations	Completed, reply received.

7	Seek solution to the footbridge at Welshpool and gritting in poor	On-going
	weather.	

Ref	Item	Status
8	Seek confirmation from Network Rail some detail on how the £3m signalling improvements to the Cambrian Line are made up. In particular the adding of software to new trains so that they can serve and back up the Cambrian Lines.	Still no response
9	Seek clarification on the programme for works at Machynlleth Station.	Completed
10	Seek clarification with Network Rail as to responsibility for indicator boards not on station platforms – chase up a response.	Still no response
11	Meeting on bus replacement timetabling to be held including the Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Cambrian Coast, Roger Whitehouse and the Secretary to be arranged by TfW.	Meeting held.
12	Meeting with Network Rail to be arranged.	Meeting held
13	Financing of the group into the future plan.	Plan in progress

10. Report on matters since last meeting

The meeting noted a short report on the All Wales Transport for Wales Liaison meeting with particular reference to:

Train design consultations

It has been noted that there has not been the consultation regarding the new trains that should have been done. There is some work to try and rectify this.

Through trains to Birmingham

It was confirmed again that there will be the retention of the existing direct trains to Birmingham International from the Cambrian Lines.

Issues short term with couplings

It was confirmed that the new trains do not couple up to the older trains. However, to help the introduction with little impact the new trains will be introduced line by line.

Short platform stopping trains

The issue of trains stopping (or not) at short platform stations was recognised and this issue is being addressed urgently.

Recognition

The TfW management accept that there is work to do regarding the Cambrian Line services before it is right when the new trains are introduced.

To meeting also noted the contents of two letters from Welsh Government regarding Cambrian Line rail services which confirmed (among other things) that the Cambrian Line

Trains will be kept for that service (21 units). It appears that this means the existing route plan of Aberystwyth – Birmingham International – Holyhead.

11. Transport for Wales

There was no direct report from Transport for Wales for this meeting.

5.1 Details of decision makers on train designs.

The Secretary is still waiting details of the details of the person or persons who are the decision makers on train formations.

a. Train formation and design consultation

There are still issues around seating capacity and toilet provision. TfW has been asked to produce a chart of the seating on the 2018 services compared with the seating with the 2023 timetable. Currently it looks like the Coast Line will be at least 8% down. The meeting agreed this was totally unacceptable.

5.3 Welshpool bus replacement services

There are still issues around passengers not being able to find where the buses go from was a problem. It is too late for the recent bus replacement service but should be noted for the future.

b. Station Audit for Cambrian Lines

The Station and Dementia Audit for Cambrian Lines has been completed and issued to TfW. No reaction or contact about this other than confirming that it has been passed to the station improvements group.

The state of Borth Station is to be added to the Station Audit.

c. Welshpool Station proposals.

The report on station improvements for Welshpool has been submitted to TfW. No response to date. The meeting agreed that Welshpool Station is the worst on the Wales network considering the number of passengers that use this station.

12. Network Rail

Report from Network Rail – no report yet again.

The Secretary is now to approach Welsh Government to ensure that Network Rail does respond – in particular in relation to:

- i) How the £3m signalling budget on the Cambrian Lines has been spent.
- ii) Indicator boards required at Welshpool and Dovey Junction.

13. Carno Station re-opening

The meeting received an update on this subject.

It was noted that a decision was still awaited from Welsh Government.

14. Date of next meeting

To note the date for the next meeting as set out below: Friday 29th October 2021 at 11.15am

Meetings will be held in person if possible otherwise by Zoom.

15. Actions being taken forward

The actions to be taken forward are:

No	Action	Ву
1	Prepare and circulate minutes of the meeting.	Secretary
2	Arrange Welsh Government Meeting regarding Network	Secretary
	Rail matters.	
3	Continue to gain information required from TfW.	Secretary
4	Obtain passenger seating comparison between 2018	Secretary
	and 2023 proposed timetable.	
5	Add Borth station issues to Station Audit.	Secretary
6	Continue with seeking a satisfactory response with	Secretary
	regard to train formation issues.	
7	Arrange for a funding report for the next meeting.	Chair
8	Chase up response to station audits.	Secretary
9	Chase up improvements to Welshpool Station.	Secretary
10	Welsh translation of Station Audit Reports.	Secretary
11	Welshpool station bridge issues.	Secretary

Agenda Item 7

CYNHADLEDD RHEILFFORDD ARFORDIR Y CAMBRIAN <u>11-02-2022</u> CAMBRIAN COAST RAILWAY LIAISON CONFERENCE <u>11-02-2022</u>

Cwestiwn i TRAFNIDIAETH CYMRU / Question for TRANSPORT FOR WALES		
Cwestiwn i NETWORI	K RAIL/ Question for NETWORK RAIL	
Mae Cyngor Tref Criccieth yn pryderdu nad yw Network Rail yn cyfathrebu yn ddigonol gyda'r cyhoedd i nodi pryd oedd y trenau wedi ail-ddechrau'n ddiweddar – a bod angen gwella hyn ar gyfer y dyfodol gan ei fod yn fater iechyd a diogelwch. A oes modd sicrhau gwell cyfathrebu am newidadau i'r gwasanaeth i'r dyfodol?		
Mae Cyngor Tref Criccieth hefyd a chonsyrn consyrn am daclusrwydd/edrychiad y tir o gwmpas y stesion ar y dde. A oes modd gwneud rhywbeth amdano?		
Criccieth Town Council is concerned that Network Rail is not communicating adequately in notifying the public when the trains had recently re-started – this needs to be improved in future as it is a health and safety issue. Is it possible to ensure better communication about future service changes?		
,		
Criccieth Town Council is also concerned about the tidiness / appearance of the land around the station on the right. Can something be done about it		
around the station on the right. Our something be done about it		
Cwestiwn i'r PWYLLGOR / Question for COMMITTEE		
Cwestiwn i'r BARTNERIAETH / Question for PARTNERSHIP		
Oddiwrth / From:		
Clerc:Clerk		
Cyngor Tref Criccieth	Town Council	
I'w dychwelyd at /	Lowri Haf Evans	
To be returned to:	Gwasanaethau Democratiaeth / Democratic Services	
	Cyngor Gwynedd / Gwynedd Council	
	Stryd y Jel, Caernarfon Gwynedd	
	LL55 1SH	
	01286 679 878	
lowrihafevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru		
Erbyn / By:	14-01-2022	