



Community  
Transport  
Association  
Cymdeithas  
Cludiant  
Cymunedol

**Minutes of the Wales Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
Forge Fach Community Centre, Clydach, Swansea**

**Present:**

Sarah Leyland-Jones  
Stuart Cole  
Phill Taylor  
Megan Rosser – Davies  
Sue Reed  
Ceri Rees  
Graham Cartwright

**In attendance from CTA:** Kerry Lane, Jason Edwards (via telephone), Alice Tolley, Malcolm Thomas

**Apologies:** Pat Bowen, Gareth Evans, Richard Cope, Dave Brown and Janine David

**1 Welcome and Introductions.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 meeting**

It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

**3 Matters arising**

3.1 With reference to point 3.10 of the previous minutes, A few more committee members had responded to the newsletter survey, the Chair requested all committee members respond to all surveys CTAW send out.

**4 Address – Professor Stuart Cole**

4.1 A Short film was shown on the Bwcabus project and over view was given by Professor Cole regarding the aims, objectives and progress to date on the service which operated on a Demand Responsive Basis with a feeder element for passengers wishing to make connections with Strategic routes along main corridors in the Teifi Valley, two accessible Slim-line Optare vehicles were used for this DRT element. As part of the project, the main 460 service operating between Carmarthen and Newcastle Emlyn had been lengthened and the frequency of this service had been doubled to afford

increased opportunities for wider travel for local community residents and visitors.

4.2 Service uptake was increasing month-on-month and exceeding expectations, not only in terms of local DR journeys, but also in regard to the 460 service with uplift in passenger journeys of nearly 50%. A second phase of the project would commence later this year, widening availability of service within neighbouring rural areas and linking with other key towns/ strategic routes in Ceredigion such as Lampeter. Bookings were taken by Traveline Cymru up to 11p.m. the day before passengers wished to travel. No deviations from routes planned were possible by drivers once they had received their service plan for the day to ensure connections with the 460 service. Technology included bespoke bookings./scheduling software, vehicle tracking systems and on board data terminals for drivers.

4.3 In response to queries raised by the Committee for Wales, Professor Cole stated that:

- With regard to the increase in passengers journeys on the 460 service approximately half were attributable to the feeder service, the remainder were attributable to improved frequency and length of the service.
- Whilst the service operated on a demand responsive basis, in order to meet tight schedules for meeting the strategic route services and make best use of vehicles, passengers were asked to walk to their nearest bus stop for pick-ups. Generally, the only exceptions to this requirement were if passengers lived in outlying areas where vehicles passed en route.
- Funding for the service had been derived from funds previously used to support infrequent subsidised Local Bus Services which had operated in the service area and Convergence Funding.
- There had been no inter-ticketing issues to date, although Professor Cole recognised this could be an issue if expansion of the project into areas where commercial operations were in place occurred. This would be addressed on a case by case basis.
- The Chair was concerned that the perception by some local and national bodies of Bwcabus being a CT service may impact on current and future frameworks/ support mechanisms for traditional CT services. Professor Cole stated that in his view Bwcabus was a DR PSV public transport service and should not be confused with a Community Transport service.

## **5 Update**

### **5.1 CTCFI**

There will be no formal meeting with Welsh Government officials on this until the new Minister had clarified Manifesto Commitments with officials.

The Chair expressed concerns as to the revised criteria in that the provision affording NEPT eligible passengers' concessionary travel for hospital journeys would place significant pressure on participating Powys schemes. The Director undertook to raise with the WG whenever a meeting was scheduled.

#### **Action CTA Wales to raise issues with WG regarding criteria and eligible NEPT passengers**

### **4.2 Forward Training Programme**

We have sent out the new training brochure. Courses set for the year include Safe and legal Minibus and MPV's, Business and Strategic Planning, Minibus Fire Evacuation, Social Auditing for CT, Tendering for Transport Contracts, Emergency Responder First Aid, and Understanding Finances and Budgeting.

### **4.3 MiDAS Driver of the year 2011 arrangements**

They are 3 heats Mid Wales, South Wales and West Wales and the Projects Officer thanked all sponsors – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, PACTO, Pembrokeshire County Council and Qstraint.

### **4.4 Wales Annual Conference 2011 – Discussion on Content**

The line-up we are hoping for is the Minister with responsibility for Transport, Terri Thomas WG ref RDP and Deep Rural work, Jane Davidson ref Sustainable Development, Constance Adams WCVA and the Chief Executive from Disability Wales followed by a panel session with the 4 main parties.

Confirmed speakers at the moment are Terri Thomas and Constance Adams.

### **4.5 SRA Funding Bids**

CTAW has yet to receive notification of the outcome of the Heads of the Valleys Bid re- submitted during December 2010. The programme budget was still awaiting Ministerial Sign-off

Further to the last meeting CTAW had been encouraged by the Western Valleys SRA team to submit a project bid covering that programme area. Scoping was currently being undertaken to identify relevant operators and service need.

#### **4.6 Deep Rural Localities Work**

Proposals for all four areas studied had been submitted to the WG Rural Affairs Unit. WG officials were considering the proposals and CTAW hoped a meeting would be convened in the near term to agree a way forward, if any.

#### **4.7 NEPT Griffiths Review**

The Director recently attended the National Programme Board Meeting where updates were provided from all 4 pilots. They were all at different stages of development and a review would be held over the next few months. As yet the only pilot advanced in terms of CT activity was Hywel Dda but voluntary sector activity was planned for the other pilots. Out-with the pilots CTAW was working closely with the ABMU region to identify pilot opportunities for both Voluntary sector operators and Social Service units. It was hoped a pilot would commence later in the summer.

#### **4.8 Shopmobility Update**

Swansea Mobility Hire has now moved premises, Newport Shopmobility were asked to move but there were problems with relocation and Ceredigion were looking to extend but have had to abandoned as the council did not give planning permission for the premises in mind. Carmarthen has recently commenced service and was now opened 2 days a week. The Chair asked if Cliff Adney, Shopmobility Wales Officer could attend future meetings of the committee.

**Action: Cliff Adney to possibly attend the next committee meeting**

#### **4.9 Trustees**

CTA UK were looking to recruit 4 new Trustees and would like to recruit one from Wales. A Trustees pack could be downloaded from the CTA website:  
<http://www.ctauk.org/news/?ID=46>

### **5 SWITCH Community Transport Capital Enhancement Grant**

SWITCH have now a max of £40k for this financial year to put towards CT capital Enhancement grant with a view to look at using slippage from other areas to try and use towards the grant, which is for capital items only. Items that cost up to £3k 100% funding items up to £5k 75% and 10k which is the Max 50% of the cost, things considered similar to other consortia.

## **6 Information Exchange**

### **6.1 Committee Members**

#### **Sue Reed**

All schemes in NPT are reporting an uptake in usage. NPTCT is looking to consolidate its back office systems with improved phone networks and IT. Discussions have been held with both NPTCT and DANSA to consider how some systems could be shared/ integrated etc. DANSA has now re-registered all its routes under a Section 22.

#### **Megan Rosser Davies**

One of the day centres Torfaen CT serves is cutting back their hours to save cost which will result in drivers hours cut back

#### **Phill Taylor**

No real change from the last meeting, other than that the scheme is now exploring opportunities to cover the end of CTCFI and the organisation is undertaking an extensive business review.

#### **Ceri Rees**

Debbie Johnson (PACTO) is back in post 3 days a week. PCC have worked in partnership with CTA and other partners on the Clydau Deep Rural Areas proposal, and await the final Travel pattern research from AECOM. PCC is working with PACTO on an RDP project to develop CT services.

#### **Sarah Leyland Jones**

PAVO Transport Training Agency has launched its ECO – driver training which is going well and both the Local Authority and Brecon Beacons National park have expressed an interest in the training. Further to CTA's training session "Saving Money through Carbon Reduction" PAVO were undertaking a Green Fleet Review in conjunction Greenfleet Services Ltd making use of EST funding. The data collection was proving difficult but since there was a minimum number of vehicles required to take advantage of the free review it really was essential that all operators saw the benefit of the exercise. The LHB and LA have both signed the SLA which includes a whole review of CT in Powys. There is some money in the RDP fund for a Tourism project and PAVO have been asked by Glassey to look at taking it forward. CT Schemes funding remains the same for this financial year.

### **6.2 CTA Wales Staff Reports**

The committee were happy with the all staff reports and no questions were raised.

## **7 Any Other Business**

7.1 Debbie Johnson (PACTO) was co-opted onto the committee, in recognition of her considerable experience.

7.2 The Committee requested if notes from the forthcoming regional forums could be circulated for interest. This was agreed.

**Action: Notes from forthcoming forums should be circulated with committee meetings.**

## **8 Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be the last before the AMM in October. It was requested that the venues be arranged near to committee members in turn in order the committee could benefit from understanding a little about others operations, roles etc. It was agreed the next meeting be held in Cwmbran at Torfaen Community Transport. Date to be set.