



Growing Mid Wales November Newsletter

November Update 2022

Our newsletter has been running for five months now and each month we've been introducing the different teams of Growing Mid Wales and the great work that is being carried out by each to represent the region's interests and priorities for improvements to our local economy.

This month we take a closer look at Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru (TraCC) - Mid Wales Transportation, a reminder of current transport provision and new developments that are on the horizon.

This newsletter is now our regular way to communicate with our stakeholders/members and we will always be looking at ways to improve the way we deliver our news. So, if you have any feedback, comments, or relevant content to feature here, we'd love to hear from you.

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

The Growing Mid Wales Team

TraCC Contact details



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*Working part time for the RET on strategic transport
and working towards improvement transport
connectivity both within Wales and cross border.*

1 - RET - Regional Engagement Team

Fact of the Month

The 1840s and 1850s saw a feverish burst of railway building right across the country as businessmen saw that it was possible to make a fortune through the railways.

What brought the railway through the then county of Radnorshire was the desire to connect the port of Milford Haven with the cities and factories of the Midlands and North of England.

The Knighton Railway company was formed by local landowners and businessmen to build a line from Craven Arms to the town. Work began in August 1858 and the line reached Knighton in March 1861.

Knighton's Station is across the River Teme from the town and actually in Shropshire, England as you can see from this map of 1865. (The dotted line represents the border with England.)

Today, Knighton railway station remains open and is part of the [Heart of Wales Line railway](#).



2 - Source: [Victorian Powys](#), Powys Archives and map from Ordnance Survey

Read on for:

- About the Mid Wales Transportation (TraCC)
- What's happening right now with transport in Mid Wales
- Welsh Government's new transport strategy

About the Mid Wales Transportation (TraCC) partnership

TraCC brings together the highways and public transport functions of three local authorities, Powys, Ceredigion and the Meirionnydd district of Gwynedd, to provide specific regional solutions to local integrated transport and develop policy and programmes.

TraCC comprises the central area of Wales from the English border in the east to the Welsh coast in the west, including parts of the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia National Parks.

This transport partnership has been working together since 2003, building on the successful Mid Wales Partnership (MWP) established in 1996.

TraCC assists the Welsh Government in delivering its national integrated transport policies on a regional basis, and identifies priorities for future investment in collaboration with partners.



The TraCC Vision is:

"To plan for and deliver in partnership an integrated transport system in the TraCC region that facilitates economic development, ensures access for all to services and opportunities, sustains and improves the quality of community life and respects the environment".

Together we delivered our first Regional Transport Plan in 2008 followed by our [Joint Mid Wales Local Transport Plan in 2015](#).

What's happening with transport right now in Mid Wales



The Cambrian Line has seen the re-introduction of commercial freight to the line for the first time since 2005. This signals a cleaner, greener transport opportunity to take hundreds of large lorries off rural roads.

More information can be found on the [Colas Rail website](#).

Image courtesy of Colas Rail & SARPA.

TrawsCymru is now part of Transport for Wales



Two services, one ticket



Transport for Wales (TfW) has partnered with TrawsCymru so now you can travel from Aberystwyth to destinations in south Wales with just one ticket.

Instead of using different apps, websites and sellers to buy separate train and bus tickets, passengers can now purchase one ticket to cover journeys on both TfW rail services and the TrawsCymru T1 and T5 buses.

For example, if you're travelling on rail services from destinations in south Wales you'll need to get off at Carmarthen and then swap onto a TrawsCymru T1 service to continue your journey. If you're travelling from Aberystwyth, Lampeter or Aberaeron, you'll start your journey on a TrawsCymru service and swap onto the rail service at Carmarthen to continue your journey to your destination.

New electric buses to Aberystwyth

Transport for Wales are soon to commence a tendering exercise to source an operator to provide the key TrawsCymru T1 service linking Aberystwyth – Lampeter – Carmarthen, which is due to commence early in the New Year with eight new fully electric buses.

As part of the network improvement, Transport for Wales is also working closely with the local authorities to explore further improvements to the popular rural demand responsive Fflecsi Bwcabus scheme which connects with the T1 service at key hubs.

Passengers using the improved T1 service will also benefit from more attractive waiting facilities at key bus stops along the route recently introduced by Ceredigion County Council using grant funding provided by the Welsh Government.



3 - New electric bus

Fflecsi Bwcabus



Fflecsi Bwcabus is a fully accessible local bus service, which operates six days a week 7am -7pm, within a specific area providing a mixture of both fixed route services and bookable journeys.

The service is designed to help people make local journeys and connections to main line bus services (T1, T1C, T5, 460). To use the service, simply:

- 1. Download fflecsi app or call us:** set up an account for free and choose your pick-up and drop-off points or alternatively call the fflecsi call centre 0300 234 0300 and our friendly, bi-lingual staff will be on hand to help book journeys and answer your queries
- 2. Book your trip:** Choose your pick-up and drop-off points, times, and date of travel. You'll receive confirmation and live updates via our app
- 3. Travel:** Head to your pick-up point in plenty of time and be ready to start your journey with us

Book your journey at least 90 minutes before travel –passengers can book up to a month in advance and regular journeys can also be made.

Fixed routes do not require pre-booking or registration. Just turn up and catch the bus as you would for a regular bus service.

Welsh concessionary card holders travel for free and MyTravelPass is also accepted.

For more information, please visit the [Bwcabus home page](#).



Transport for Wales plan to introduce new trains on the Cambrian lines

Following trial runs carried out over the summer along the Cambrian Lines, the new Class 197 diesel units by CAF trains are starting to be delivered to and be used on the Cambrian lines. Following the trials, together with crew training and the necessary upgrades to the infrastructure and the depot at Machynlleth, Transport for Wales plan for the trains to start running in 2023.



Restoring Barmouth Viaduct

Network Rail are upgrading the iconic Barmouth Viaduct; the biggest restoration of Barmouth Viaduct in its history. The £30m upgrade will protect the well-loved bridge for generations and maintain its magnificent appearance.

More information can be found [here](#).



Welsh Government project A487: new Dyfi Bridge



Since spring 2021, contractors have been building the new Dyfi bridge at Machynlleth. A new bridge was needed because the road often closes due to frequent flooding which can cause diverted traffic of up to 30 miles. This £46m project is due for completion in 2023 and will ensure future resilience on the West Wales Strategic Coastal Corridor linking North and Mid Wales.

The final phase of restoration work on the 154-years-old Grade I listed railway bridge at Barmouth will commence on the metallic elements from 15 November. This £30m investment of the Cambrian Coast Railway will ensure its future as a strategic transport corridor between North and Mid Wales. Not only does the bridge carry the railway but also the Mawddach cycle trail and All Wales Coast Path.

More information can be found [here](#).

Welsh Government's new transport strategy

Welsh Government have published their [new transport strategy](#). Therefore, we will review the TraCC plans and set out a new Regional Transport Plan and policies in 2023/24 to help and guide the new Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee.



Keep up to date

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our Twitter and Linked In pages:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

Disclaimer: As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these emails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.

