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Trains return to Pembrokeshire rail station

Posted 14/05/12

Fishguard & Goodwick railway station has reopened to passengers nearly 50 years after regular passenger trains last served the Pembrokeshire station.

The single platform station has been reopened to provide more convenient access to Fishguard town centre than Fishguard Harbour station where passengers can transfer to ferries bound for Ireland. After Pembrokeshire County Council acquired land needed to reopen the station plans gained fresh impetus last year when the Welsh Assembly Government announced that it would fund a three year trial of additional services on the Fishguard Harbour branch line. This £1.4m a year subsidy pays for five return services a day between Carmarthen and Fishguard Harbour, all of which will call at the reopened Fishguard & Goodwick station last used by regular passenger services in 1964.

A £450,000 package to open the station was put together by the county council, Welsh Government, South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium, Network Rail Wales and Arriva Trains Wales. This has seen a new car park created, dangerous old station buildings demolished, a new platform shelter installed, 150 metres of track realigned and the station platform repaired and restored to modern standards.

Cllr Jamie Adams, deputy leader of Pembrokeshire County Council, said: "Improvements to rail services west of Swansea were not only a priority for Pembrokeshire but for the south west region as a whole. The reopening of the station is a positive step for the communities of Fishguard and Goodwick and indeed North Pembrokeshire and will help attract passengers on to the new enhanced rail services."

Arriva Trains Wales operates the new station and, from the introduction of the summer timetable on 13 May 2012, will reduce train journey times between Cardiff and Fishguard Harbour by rerouting selected services in west Wales.

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