



Neuadd y Gwendraeth

Green Travel Plan

Date: July 6th 2018

Signature: Nia Thomas, Education Systems Manager

Signed by: N Thomas

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1. Introduction

1.1 Travel Plans

Green Travel Plans are the Government's recommended way forward to widen travel choice, to promote more sustainable travel choices and to reduce single occupancy car travel. A Travel Plan is a dynamic process, evolving and changing over time to reflect the needs of the stakeholders and visitors to Neuadd y Gwendraeth. It provides an ideal opportunity for us to evaluate and reconsider our current travel habits and will cover the following elements:

- Visitor travel
- Working practices
- Ongoing changes to site

1.2 Implementing a Travel Plan

- To demonstrate Neuadd y Gwendraeth's commitment to travel planning and to promote the use of sustainable transport.
- To improve opportunities for and encourage travel by sustainable modes and to reduce unnecessary travel.
- To raise awareness of the Green Travel Plan for stakeholders and visitors.
- To improve parking issues outside the parameter of Neuadd y Gwendraeth.

1.3 The aim of the Travel Plan

The overall aim of the Neuadd y Gwendraeth Green Travel Plan is to seek to ensure that where possible our stakeholders and visitors use more environmentally-friendly alternatives to driving a vehicle as a single occupant thereby alleviating parking issues.

1.4 The benefits of implementing a Travel Plan

There will be cost savings associated with reduced transport-related costs for stakeholders and visitors by reducing car journeys. There will also be quality of life improvements for those local visitors who opt to walk to the venue.

Neighbours and villagers will benefit from reduced congestion, improving community relations. The plan demonstrates our environmental commitment due to improved local air quality and reduction of global pollutants, as well as reducing our carbon footprint.

2. Context

2.1 Type of organisation

Neuadd y Gwendraeth is a multi-function venue whose customer base is mainly Carmarthenshire school staff, pupils and governors, members of the public and local groups and organisations. Events include conferences, training events, meetings, rehearsals and performances. As a result we anticipate a steady stream of visitors with some events attracting high numbers plus those involved in staging the events.

Neuadd y Gwendraeth is committed to making environmental improvements and to lessening the impact we have on the environment and local residents. Our Travel Plan fits in with our aspiration to promote sustainability and ease of access for our guests.

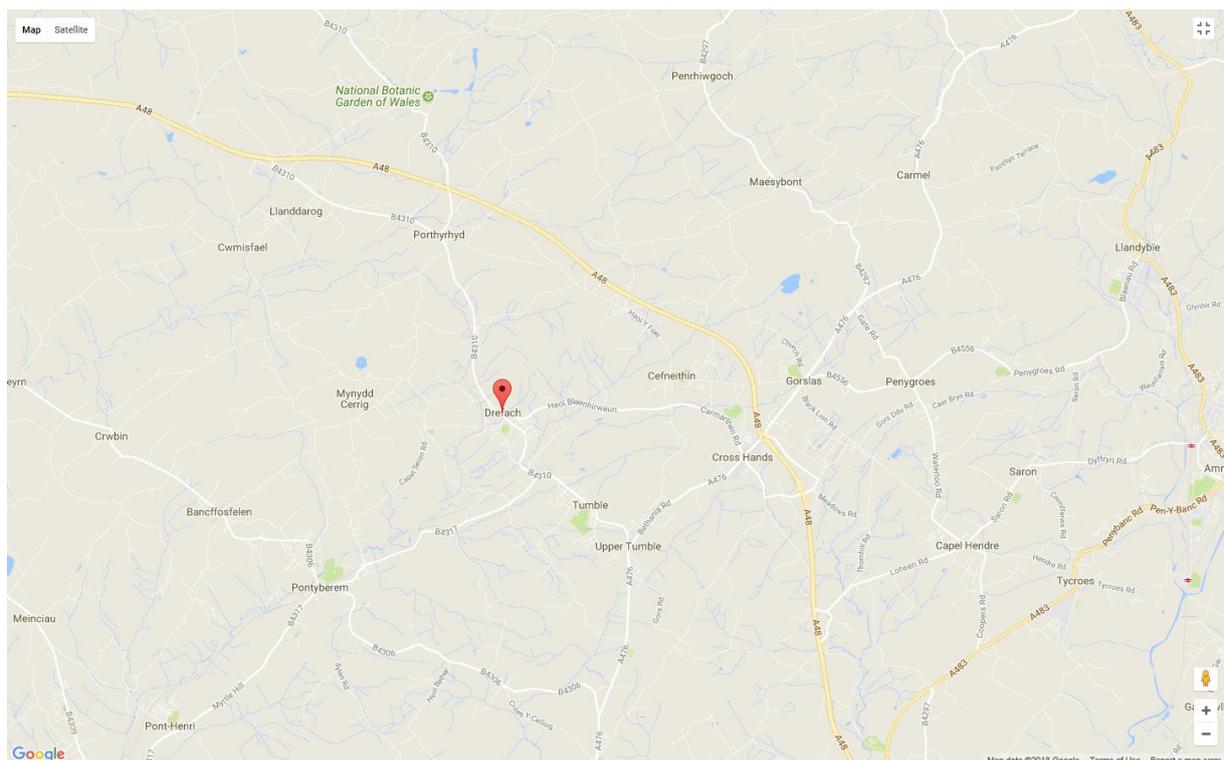
2.2 Visitor Information

All our guests and customers are members of the public who come from the local vicinity and beyond. Depending on the event – conferences, training events, meetings, rehearsals and performance etc - it is difficult to calculate how most of them will travel to the site. However, we assume most will not be walking so we aim to reduce the number of car journeys by encouraging other forms of transport.

We do not envisage directly employing staff due to the sporadic nature of the business. We will encourage visitors to travel together, share lifts, and use public transport where appropriate.

2.3 Travel to the site

Neuadd y Gwendraeth is based in the village of Drefach, approximately 11 miles from Carmarthen and 10 miles from Llanelli,



a) Information and Promotion

Information about parking and alternative travel choices is provided to visitors and contractors via email, booking form and through the groups and organisations staging the events.

b) Pedestrian Access

Neuadd y Gwendraeth is accessible from the village of Drefach. Access is clearly marked from the bus bay outside the venue. It is also accessible from the closed school site (Ysgol y Gwendraeth). However, access routes are not signposted and at night there is poor visibility. Consequently visitors are advised to exercise care.

c) Bus links

Neuadd y Gwendraeth is a five minute walk from Drefach square where several bus routes are available. The link below lists timetables for this stop – Routes 129, 164 and 166.

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/bus-services/bus-timetables/#.Wzt7O-aosdU>

d) Rail links

Neuadd y Gwendraeth is a 20 minute taxi ride from Carmarthen Station and roughly a 30 minute drive from Llanelli Station.

e) Journey Sharing/Car Sharing

Visitors and staff are encouraged to car-share at all times.

f) Coach hire

Visitors are able to arrive by private coach minimising the number of cars. We have a large bus bay at the front of the venue for coaches to drop off and collect visitors.

g) Driving

Car parking is limited on site with 16 spaces at the rear of the venue (including 2 disabled spaces). Visitors can also park along the access road and also within the large bus bay at the front of the venue. This adds a further 30 parking spaces.

There is a significant area available for parking within the closed school site adjacent to the venue. However, access routes are not signposted and at night there is poor visibility. Consequently visitors are advised to exercise care.

2.4 Current measures in place

Guests, visitors and contractors coming to Neuadd y Gwendraeth will be advised of alternative means of transport other than the car such as bus, train or walking. Bus and train timetables will be made available upon request. We will also encourage visitors to car-share to minimise vehicles parking at the venue.

3. Incentives

3.1 Walking

Walking is the cheapest and healthiest mode of transport. Unfortunately apart from local residents attending public performances and events at the venue, the majority of visitors travel from across the county. Local residents already see walking as a viable option to avoid having to locate a suitable parking space.

3.2 Public Transport Use

While local bus services aren't as comprehensive as they once were, Neuadd y Gwendraeth is accessible by bus. The link below lists timetables for the village of Drefach – Routes 129, 164 and 166. Utilising bus travel is cost effective for visitors and avoids having to locate a suitable parking space.

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/bus-services/bus-timetables/#.Wzt7O-aosdU>

Rail travel to the nearby towns of Carmarthen or Llanelli coupled with bus travel to the venue seems onerous. However it would be a viable option for visitors travelling from outside the county for conferences. Again this is cost effective and avoids having to locate a suitable parking space.

3.3 Car Sharing and Reduction of Car Use

For one-off or regular visitors to Neuadd y Gwendraeth, car-sharing could be an alternative to single occupancy car journeys. Regular visitors e.g. head teachers are encouraged to car-share. All individuals and organisations booking use of the venue receive literature highlighting the benefits of car-sharing.

3.4 Private Coach Hire

All individuals and organisations booking use of Neuadd y Gwendraeth will be advised that utilising local coach hire companies could assist a large number of people being transported to and from the venue. This could be from the two railway stations or other locations and would prevent all visitors using cars.

4. Implementation

4.1 Roles and responsibilities

As the Premises Responsible Person (PRP) for Neuadd y Gwendraeth, Nia Thomas is committed to the Green Travel Plan and minimising where possible the number of car journeys to and from the site. We will be proactive in working with all stakeholders, visitors and contractors to encourage walking and the use of car-sharing, public transport, and coach hire to achieve those aims. We will communicate with them to discuss options and stress the importance of seeking alternatives. Nia can be contacted on 07814 716380.

4.2 How the plan will be marketed

We will publish the plan on-line and highlight alternative modes of transport on our general marketing literature and booking documentation. We will communicate with stakeholders, visitors and contractors to ensure they have had sight of the plan and are giving due consideration to its content.

Routes, advice, contacts and parking guidance will be clearly listed and Nia Thomas and her staff will be on hand to answer any queries or questions on the best way to travel to and from Neuadd y Gwendraeth. We do not want the premises over-run with unnecessary car journeys so it is in our interest and the environment's to do everything we can to suggest alternatives.

We will issue copies of the Green Travel Plan to regular users of the venue and share good practice to minimise unnecessary journeys.

5. Monitoring

5.1 How progress will be measured

We will monitor how many vehicles are used at larger events and assess reductions in the number of cars as a result of the implementation of the Green Travel Plan.

Patterns of transport use will be logged, with options on ways to further reduce the use of cars explored. Use of the closed school site, access routes from there, lighting and health and safety issues will also be closely monitored with a view to utilising the area for regular parking.

5.2 Working with local organisations and residents

We aim to work with all local organisations to resolve any issues that arise as a result of the Green Travel Plan. We will seek regular feedback from local residents on any ongoing concerns relating to parking outside of the venue's perimeter and implement further measures to try and resolve the situation.