

Clyde, Kintyre and Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group

Monday 10th June 2019 at Whitegates Learning Centre, Lochgilphead

Present:

Cllr Len Scoullar, Argyll and Bute Council, Chair
Cllr Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr John Armour, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Ellen McMaster Vice Chair, North Ayrshire Council
Paul Flynn, Transport Scotland
Ashley Jones, Transport Scotland
Alan McCabe, Transport Scotland
Kevin Hobbs, CMAL
Ian MacFarlane, CalMac Community Board representative
Robbie Drummond, CalMac Ferries Limited
Robert Morrison, CalMac Ferries Limited
Demi Wylie, CalMac Ferries Limited
Simon Richmond, CalMac Ferries Limited
Andrew McNair, CalMac Ferries Limited
Mark Thomson, CalMac Ferries Limited
Ranald Robertson, HITRANS
Allan Finlay, Argyll and Bute Council
Anne McGregor, AECOM
Andrew Robb, AECOM
Alistair Dobson, Arran Economic Group
Islay McEachern, Islay Community Council
David Hobhouse, Colonsay Community Council
Bill Calderwood, Arran Ferry Committee
Jim Porteous, Islay Ferry Committee
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries
Jane MacLeod, Business Representative
Ninian McAllister, NFU
John Earnshaw, Gigha Community Council

Apologies:

Cllr Roddy McCuish, Argyll and Bute Council / HITRANS
Cllr Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Ann Horn, Argyll and Bute Council
Cllr Timothy Billings, North Ayrshire Council
Cllr Chris McEleny, Inverclyde Council
Cllr Ronnie Ahlfeld, Inverclyde Council
Allan Comrie, SPT
Fergus Murray, Argyll and Bute Council
Gordon Smith, Visit Scotland
Steven Neilston, Argyll and Bute Council

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Len Scoullar appointed as Chair.

Cllr Ellen McMaster appointed as Vice Chair.

2. Minute of Meetings held on 12 December and 5 December 2018

The Minutes were agreed as an accurate account of both meetings.

Action – It was agreed to move to minuting in the form of an Action note for the FSG from this meeting onwards.

3. Matters Arising

Robert Morrison updated that CFL have discussed with the contractor a move to reporting against timetable not contractual but this has been confirmed not to be possible.

4. VRDP Update by Transport Scotland

Paul Flynn presented the draft VRDP Annual Report for 2018 (which includes 2017 update).

Action – Members will submit written comments on the draft VRDP to Transport Scotland by Friday 21 June 2019

Action – Transport Scotland will seek to make more accurate reporting of vessel utilisation to properly understand the impact of freight carriage on the vessel capacity. This would see future VRDP reporting taking cognisance of the impact of a full vessel deadweight leading to a limited carrying capacity even meaning the vessel needs to sail with space on the vehicle deck.

5. Operational and Performance Update

CalMac Ferries Limited

Demi Wylie presented on Winter 2020/21 timetable change consultation.

Andrew McNair presented a marketing and commercial update.

Simon Richmond provided the update on operational reporting.

Action – Demi Wylie would send the form for timetable change suggestions to Campbeltown Ferry Committee and ensure they are not missed in future calls for changes.

Action – CFL are keen to work with DMOs and others on collaborative marketing and would invite proposals from all stakeholders if they identify an opportunity.

Western Ferries

Gordon Ross provided an operating update on behalf of Western Ferries. Covered:

- Operational Reliability
- Second Linkspan upgrade at Hunter's Quay

6. CMAL Update

Kevin Hobbs reported on CMAL matters covering:

- Network wide infrastructure update including Portavadie, Gourock, Dunoon,
- Update on MV Glen Sannox and NH 802

Action – It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a letter from the Clyde, Kintyre and Islands FSG to be sent to the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and Islands on the critical need to find funding to support the delivery of a vessel upgrade programme estimated to extend to 6 major ferries and 4 non-major vessels.

7. Ports / Harbours

Allan Finlay provided an update on Argyll and Bute Council ports / harbours.

8. Masters Decision Making – Presentation

Robbie Drummond presented this item alongside Mark Thomson. The presentation covered the process that is followed by Masters on decision taking around the operation of sailings and the legal liabilities that each Master must carry.

9. Communities Board Update

Ian MacFarlane provided an update on the Communities Board.

Action – Transport Scotland to update the FSG on the outcome of the Communities Board proposal to reduce charging of school minibuses to the rate levied on equivalent sized motorhomes.

10. Strategic Transport Projects Review Stakeholder Engagement Presentation

Ann McGregor and Andrew Robb from AECOM presented on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review that is being undertaken by Transport Scotland.

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be scheduled for **Wednesday 4th December 2019** in Cowal.