



**Minute of Clyde Ferry Users Group Meeting (FUG)
(Arran, Bute, Cumbrae, Cowal)**

**Held at Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew
11:00 17 January 2008**

IN ATTENDANCE

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT (SPT)

Councillor Alastair Watson, (Chair)
Mr Brian Tennant, Public Transport Officer

HITRANS

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Partnership Chair
Mr Dave Duthie, Partnership Director
Mr Ranald Robertson, Programme Manager

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

Councillor George White

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Margie Currie
Councillor Alex Gallagher

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (A&B)

Councillor Len Scoullar
Mr Douglas Blades, Public Transport Officer

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE

Mr Lawrie Sinclair, Managing Director
Mr Hugh Dan MacLennan, Communications Director
Mr Phil Preston, Operations Director
Mrs Fay Harris, Regional Manager (Kintyre & Islay)
Mr Robbie Brown, Regional Manager (Arran & Cumbrae)
Mr Brian Fulton, Regional Manager (Bute)

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Ms Lorna Spencer, Director of Harbours and Piers

ARGYLL & THE ISLES ENTERPRISE (AIE)

Mr Lennie Moffat

ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION (RHA)

Mr Donald Bannatyne, Director

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (NFU)

Mr John Murchie, Arran Branch

SCOTTISH CITYLINK/CPT

Mr Mike Deans

VISIT ARRAN

Mr Alastair Dobson

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ronnie Ahlfeld, Inverclyde Council
Councillor Davie McLachlan, SPT
Patrick Nyamurandira, First ScotRail

Chair welcomed all to meeting and introductions to be made.

ITEM 2: Minute of Meeting 3 July 2007

The minute of the 3 July 2007 meeting was agreed to be correct with a single amendment to show Margie Currie, North Ayrshire Council.

Minute approved.

ITEM 3: Matters Arising

No items raised under Matters Arising.

ITEM 4: CFL Regional post tender update

Phil Preston introduced Brian Fulton as the new regional manager for Bute. Brian Fulton, Robbie Brown and Fay Harris reported on routes within their area and provided the group with performance reports for the period ending 31/10/2007. Brian, Robbie and Fay each presented their area report providing information on reliability and punctuality of routes covered within the group. Fay Harris advised the group that regular meetings have been held throughout the year with distillers from Islay and this has helped cement a good relationship. Statistics would as reported to the meeting would be circulated with the minute to allow members to have a proper look at these.

The Chair asked that stats and reports be made available in graphical format rather than the bold list circulated.

ITEM 5: Argyll & Bute Council Report on Rothsey Harbour Development

Douglas Blades reported that a new access gangway at Rothesay Harbour is now in use. Work is scheduled to commence shortly on the removal of the original linkspan with and this is expected to be completed in April/May

ITEM 6: Local Authority Report on Timetable and Service Issues

Douglas Blades reported he has not been advised of any report. New contactor at Cloanaig and can now accommodate cyclists.

- ITEM 7: Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)**
Phil Preston advised that the consultants are still finalising their report prior to consultation with stakeholders. Caledonian MacBrayne do not know what this is likely to recommend but expects any pilot to involve some or all Western Isles routes. Caledonian MacBrayne have given existing figures for comparison and have been asked to come up with proposals, but need to know the scheme objectives, and how success/failure will be measured, this may take a substantial length of time.
Discussion followed with the Chair suggesting the Regional Transport Partnerships develop a policy paper on RET.
- ITEM 8: Cearcall na Gaidhlig (Gaelic Rings)**
Hugh Dan gave a presentation on the latest position on the Cearcall na Gaidhlig. A project steering group meeting the previous Friday to finalise arrangement for the extension of the scheme to include five new rings. The launch of these is scheduled to take place at Queen Street railway station, Glasgow on 14 March, with the event presided over by Jim Mather, Minister for Tourism. The website is being updated and will be live this week in both Gaelic and English.
- ITEM 9: HITRANS Relationship with Passengers' View**
David Duthie reported some background on Passengers' View Scotland, which was set up by Ministers primarily to deal with bus issues. Hugh Dan MacLennan advised that Caledonian MacBrayne are concerned that PVS are seeking to extend their remit beyond that which they were established to deal with and that this may cause confusion. Hugh Dan added that Caledonian MacBrayne have been concentrating on promoting the consultation/complaints process with posters on board ships and at outports. These confirm that in the first instance contact should be directly with the operator, then through the RTPs to the Ferry User Group process.
- ACTION:** HITRANS to write to convenor of Passengers' View and request meeting to highlight/clarify the role of the Ferry User Groups as a point of contact to raise issues that remain unresolved by the company.
- ITEM 10: HITRANS TIER 2 Update**
David Duthie advised that no date has been set yet for the first Clyde and Hebrides Tier 2 Ferry Committee meeting. It is hoped to hold this in the early part of the summer.
- ITEM 11: AOCB**
11.1 Donald Bannatyne asked whether there was government funding for the meeting running costs and if so would a facility be in place to enable members to claim travel expenses. David Duthie advised that neither HITRANS nor SPT received additional funding from Government to meet the costs associated with the Ferry User Groups. HITRANS have agreed to fund travel costs for Community Council representatives but we would expect organisations to cover the costs of their

representatives. Donald advised he received no funding from RHA towards his attendance of meetings.

- 11.2** George White asked what group representation should be as there were others he thought should be included. The Chair responded that the group was large enough and it would be difficult to maintain the good dialogue in a larger group.

ITEM: Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 11th September 2008 at the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew.