



**Minute of Argyll Ferry Users Group Meeting (FUG)
(Oban, Colonsay, Iona, Lismore, Coll, Tiree, Barra, South Uist)**

**Held at CFL Ferry Terminal, Oban
09:30 10 September 2008**

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Mr Ranald Robertson

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (A&B)

Mrs Nicola Debnam,
Cllr Len Scoullar (Observer)
Cllr Roddy McCuish

HIGHLAND COUNCIL (HC)

Mr Cameron Kemp

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR (CNES)

Cllr Gerry MacLeod

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE

Mr Ian Fox, Regional Manager (Oban)

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Mr Andrew Flockhart

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mrs Jane MacLeod

FIRSTSCOTRAIL

Mr Des Bradley

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Duncan MacIntyre
Cllr Michael Foxley
Mr Dave Duthie
Mr Sam MacNaughton
Mr Blair Fletcher
Mr Lawrie Sinclair
Mr Phil Preston
Mr Mike Dean
Mr Murdo Gray

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ranald Robertson welcomed members to the meeting and apologised for the absence of Cllr Duncan MacIntyre the regular chair of this meeting. In Cllr MacIntyre's absence the meeting was chaired by Ranald Robertson.

ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting 16 January 2008

The Minute was approved as a correct reflection of the meeting.

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

Item 8: Cearcall na Gaidhlig.

Ranald Robertson advised that the launch went ahead in Glasgow on 14 March 2008 and the next meeting of the steering group is scheduled for October 2008

Item 9: Passengers' View

Ranald Robertson confirmed a letter had been sent to the Chairperson of this organisation as agreed but to date no response has been received.

ITEM 3: Scottish Government Ferry Review

Ranald Robertson introduced report on the High Level National Ferries review. The report is to inform the group to and raise awareness of detail, scope and methodology to be covered by the review. The review will be extensive and HITRANS are keen to ensure that the Ferry Users Groups be included to support the consultation elements of the review.

There followed a general discussion on the review

ITEM 4: Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)– update on pilot scheme and monitoring arrangements

Ian Fox presented PowerPoint presentation to update the group on the RET Pilot scheme. David advised the Pilot commences in October when the winter timetables begin. The presentation included background on routes covered, fares and concessions with information now available on Caledonian MacBrayne website.

There followed a general discussion on the pilot scheme.

ITEM 5: HITRANS Ferry Connections Study

Ranald Robertson reported that HITRANS has initiated a small study to evaluate the quality of integration between transport modes at ferry terminals across the region. Bob Barnes Watts an independent timetable consultant has been appointed to conduct the review. If anyone would like to input to the study Ranald Robertson will forward on their details to Mr Barnes Watts.

ITEM 6: Caledonian MacBrayne Operational Update

Ian Fox provided operational service update covering the period to the end of August. Ian reported that with the exception of Coll & Tiree this has been a disappointing tourist season.

Ian fox updated members on the ongoing calls for a service to be introduced between Lochboisdale and Mallaig. Barra Atlantic have expressed interest in utilizing this route if it is established although the needs of all communities were being considered by Scottish Government.

There followed a general discussion on the Lochboisdale – Mallaig route.

ITEM 7: Public Transport Operational Update

Des Bradley advised the group he had just started in his new role last week and was still finding his way around the job. There was little to report in terms of any planned change to timetables although there would continue to be ongoing discussion with Caledonian MacBrayne on timetable integration.

ITEM 8: Oban Rail Service Enhancement Economic Appraisal

Ranald Robertson presented a report to advise members that HITRANS, as part of their Research and Strategy Development Programme, have commissioned a study to support the economic case for an increase to 5 trains per day the service between Glasgow and Oban. Once completed the study will be given to Transport Scotland to aid their decision making process on any future spending.

A discussion followed on the details of the study which was welcomed by all members.

ITEM 9: Oban Interchange Study

Phil Preston advised that he was not present at the last meeting of the Oban Harbour Development Group, but will have an update for the next FUG meeting on progress with delivering a study to look at the best options for improving interchange at Oban Terminal.

ITEM 10: AOCB

Des Bradley advised that he had spoken with Kenny Boyd the Port Manager at Oban regarding how to improve the passenger walk route between the station and ferry terminal as a short term measure.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 February 2009 at a time and venue to be confirmed later.