



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

**Held at Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew
10:30 11 September 2008**

IN ATTENDANCE

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT (SPT)

Councillor Davie McLachlan, (Chair)
Mr Brian Tennant

HITRANS

Mr Ranald Robertson

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

Councillor George White

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Margie Currie

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

Councillor Len Scoullar
Councillor Bruce Marshall
Mr Douglas Blades

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE (CalMac)

Mr Lawrie Sinclair
Mr Alasdair Henderson
Mr David Cannon
Mr Phil Preston
Mrs Fay Harriis
Mr Robbie Brown,
Mr Brian Fulton, Regional Manager

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Ms Ruth McIntosh

ARGYLL & THE ISLES ENTERPRISE (AIE)

Mr Lennie Moffat

ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION (RHA)

Mr Donald Bannatyne

FIRST SCOTRAIL

Mr Des Bradley

SCOTTISH CITYLINK/CPT

Mr Mike Dean

APOLOGIES: Councillor Duncan MacIntyre
Mr Dave Duthie
Councillor Alistair Watson
Ms Elizabeth Robertson

The Chair welcomed all to meeting and introductions were made round the table.

ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting 17 January 2008

The minute of the 17 January 2008 meeting was agreed to be correct. **Minute approved.**

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 CnG steering group was scheduled for October 2008

Item 9: Passengers' View

Ranald Robertson confirmed a letter had been sent as to the Convenor of Passengers' View Scotland as agreed at the meeting. To date no response had been received.

ITEM 3: Scottish Government Ferry Review

Ranald Robertson directed all to annex A, Scope of Scottish Government Ferry Review, advising that there will be an opportunity for the group collectively or as individuals to input into the review. If any members wished to provide input under the banner of the FUG then this could be sent to Ranald by 1st December to pass on to the Scottish Government.

ITEM 4: Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)

Alasdair Henderson provided the group with an update on the RET pilot scheme. Alasdair advised the group that Halcrow have been appointed to monitor the pilot. The RET pilot will commence with the winter timetables in October 2008. Background on routes covered, fares and concessions is now available on the Caledonian MacBrayne website.

There followed a general discussion on the 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 deliver the study. If anyone would like to input to the study Ranald Robertson will forward on details to the consultant.

ITEM 6: Caledonian MacBrayne Operational Update ITEM

Robbie Brown provided an operational service update to the end of August advising that all routes affected by weather and that passenger figures were down for all routes down with the exception of coaches which have increased. It is not certain if the MV Saturn to return to Brodick service.

Brian Fulton provided an update on upper Clyde services, advising all routes down due to very poor summer weather, with only coaches bucking this trend. Brian advised he was to meet with Bute Community Council who have now issued a questionnaire to seek a view from the community on how their service should develop. One possibility is that it could lead to a move towards an hourly headway in the timetable.

Fay Harris provided the operational service update on the Tarbert-Portavdie service, advising there has been a very slight increase in passengers and cars with small decrease in commercial/coach traffic.

- 6.1:** Bruce Marshall asked for an update to be provided on the ferries to Cowal, Lawrie Sinclair responded by advising that the scope of this group did not extend to the services operated by Cowal Ferries Limited as these were outwith the CHFS contract. Ranald Robertson understood that it was HITRASN understanding that the FUG should cover all routes funded by the Minister but agreed that this is worth seeking clarification from the Scottish Government to avoid any confusion in the future.

The Chair suggested inviting Western Ferries to attend meetings to provide an update on their operations to broaden the group to the widest range of operations and stakeholders.

Lawrie Sinclair felt this could be a problem and indicated it would be preferable to keep the discussions to the services operated by Caledonina MacBrayne as there could be competition issues otherwise if Western Ferries were present..

There followed a general discussion

Action: Ranald Robertson to contact the Scottish Government asking for clarification on the scope of the groups and that this should cover all ferry services operated on behalf of the Minister

ITEM 7: Public Transport Operational Update

Desmond Bradley advised the group of ongoing line upgrading planned for 26-29 December which will affect services into Glasgow Central. Buses will be used on disrupted services but Glasgow Central ferries connections should not be affected. Information is available on the ScotRail website and press releases will go out to advise passengers nearer the time.

- ITEM 8: Argyll & Bute Council Report on Rothesay Harbour Development**
Douglas Blades reported that contractor should be completed by end of October, there is an ongoing problem with gangway, it leaks and presently is inoperable, repairs in progress.
- ITEM 9: Gourock Interchange Update**
Desmond Bradley advised the group that go-ahead is not imminent, funding an issue but would anticipate for next year.
- ITEM 10: AOCB**
- 10.1** George White raised frequency of meetings and suggested additional meeting should be held, especially important when the Ferries review is underway as there will be lot's to discuss.
Discussion followed, Lawrie Sinclair indicated CalMac have no objections to additional meetings being programmed.
- Action: Randal Robertson to take back to HITRANS Board the request for additional meeting.**
- 10.2** Bruce Marshal passed on comment from constituent that no mention is made of Cowal or Dunoon in CalMac's 2008 edition of Explore magazine and asked for an explanation of this omission.
Brian Fulton responded "he has seen draft copy of 2009 edition and assures that Cowal and Dunoon are both mentioned".
Randal Robertson suggested Councillor Marshall send list of future Cowal/Dunoon 'key events' to Brian for input into magazine.
- 10.3** Lawrie Sinclair raised the issue of Piers and Harbours funding being allocated to Councils and should ensure this money is allocated solely to Piers and Harbours, HITRANS should seek clarification at next Tier 2 meeting.
- ITEM 11: Date of Next Meeting**
If required as part of the Scottish Ferries Review development and consultation a meeting will be programmed for week commencing 15th December 2008 with suggestion of 19th December.