



**Minute of Ferry Users Group
Kintyre and it's Islands**

**Held at the Cairnbaan Hotel
14:30 10 September 2008**

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Mr Ranald Robertson, Programme Manager

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

Mrs Nicola Debnam

Cllr Len Scouller

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE

Mr Brian Fulton, Regional Manager (Rothesay)

Mrs Fay Harris, Regional Manager (Kennacraig)

Mr Robbie Brown, Regional Manager (Arran & Cumbrae)

Mr Ian Fox, Regional Manager (Oban)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mr Ian MacIntyre

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Robin Currie

Ms Marie Ann Brown

Mr Andrew Flockhart

Ms Sue Gledhill, Head of Global Connections

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 15 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

Brian Fulton provided an update on the service from Claonaig to Lochranza in the absence of Robbie Brown who had to leave due to a severe weather warning.

Fay Harris provided operational update on Argyll services and circulated a handout to the group on Kennacraig, Tarbert and Taylinloan services. Fay advised the group of that she has received tremendous support from the Islay community backing the additional vessel for Islay this winter.

ITEM 7: Public Transport Operational Update

Nicola Debnam advised the group that the Council is aware of some issues concerning bus connections in the event of a late arrival of the Islay to Jura ferry. The Council are working towards a solution to this with the bus operator.

Nicola advised that West Coast Motors have reported their initiative to carry bikes on the Tarbert – Skipness route has been very successful and much credit is owed to Caledonian MacBrayne for this success.

ITEM 8: Port Askaig Ferry Terminal Project Update

Nicola Debnam reported that trials are ongoing aimed at resolving the berthing difficulties experienced by the Jura ferry in certain tidal conditions.

Fay Harris advised the group that despite a lot work on timetables last year to allow school children to get home to Gigha the Council are now looking for accommodation in Campbeltown rather than have the children travel home.

ITEM 9: New Vessel for Islay Update by CMAL

In the absence of a CMAL representative Fay Harris confirmed that the contract for this vessel been awarded to a shipyard in Gdansk.

Discussion followed

ITEM 10: AOCB

Ian Fox advised the group that Colonsay Community Council would like to be represented on the group; Ian agreed to provide contact details for Katy to send the invitation to the community council.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held on 19th February 2009 with the venue to be confirmed in advance of the meeting.