



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

**Held at the Auchrannie Hotel, Isle of Arran  
25 June 2010**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

**STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT (SPT)**

Mr Bryan Tennant

**HITRANS**

Mr Randal Robertson

Mrs Katy Cunningham

**INVERCLYDE COUNCIL**

Councillor George White (Chair)

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

Councillor Margie Currie

**ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL**

Councillor Len Scoullar

Councillor Robert MacIntyre

**Freight Haulage Association**

Mr Donald Bannatyne

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT (FERRIES DIVISION)**

Mr Peter Bald

**CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE (CalMac)**

Mr David Cannon

Mr Brian Fulton

Mr Robbie Brown

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre

Councillor Bruce Marshall

Councillor Alex Gallagher

Councillor Ronnie Ahlfeld

Mrs Fay Harris  
Mr Phil Preston  
Mr Mike Dean  
Mr Des Bradley  
Mr Douglas Blades  
Mr Alistair Dobson  
Mr Ninian McAlistar

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## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

### **ITEM 3: Appointment of Chair**

Ranald Robertson suggested taking **Item 3** on agenda ahead of schedule to allow the Chair to be appointed. Len Scoullar proposed Councillor George White as Chair of this group and this motion was seconded by Donald Banatyne

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting

### **ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting**

The minute of meeting of 12 February 2010 was approved.

### **ITEM 2: Matters Arising**

No matters raised under matters arising.

### **ITEM 4: Scottish Government Ferries Review Consultation**

Ranald Robertson advised the group that he had agreed to provide a short presentation to this group updating on the Scottish Ferries Review as the FUG Meeting preceded the official presentation of the Ferries Review to North Ayrshire Council members on 12th July.

Ranald provided background to the review, the consultation period, timescales concluding with where full details of the consultation phase are available through the Scottish Government website.

### **ITEM 5: Milk Transportations Costs by Ferry – Impact on the viability of the dairy industry on Bute**

Len Scoullar and Robert MacIntyre presented on the Bute Creamery closure and the implications of this on the island economy. To mitigate against the impact of the Creamery Closure a proposal was made that for a reduced fare regime for milk from Bute.

**Agreed:** Having taken due regard of the report prepared on options for Rothesay Creamery and Proposals for the future viability of the dairy industry on the Isle of Bute it was agreed that the Clyde Ferry User Group support ongoing dialogue and discussion between the Bute Dairy Industry and the Scottish Government to come up with a system that mitigates against the impact of the Dairy closure and ensures the Dairy Industry in Bute remains viable.

It was further **agreed** that this will remain a live item on the FUG meeting agenda and an update will be included at the next meeting

**ITEM 6: Caledonian MacBrayne Operational Update**

Brian Fulton and Robbie Brown reported on routes within their area and provided the group with performance reports for the period January – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

Brian and Robbie each presented their area report providing information on reliability and punctuality of routes covered within the group.

Robbie added numbers are encouraging, with only slight decrease in cars.

Robbie is attending all community meetings. There has been no Cumbrae user group meeting held, as no items to raise, but is aware there is an issue with £1 charge for people travelling through the SPT Concessionary Travel Scheme.

Robbie further added he continues to work with Arran Business to promote Arran,

Robbie advised the group of Lawrie Sinclair's imminent retirement, and would like to take this opportunity to wish him well in his retirement.

Chair noted the appreciation of the Group to the support and help Lawrie Sinclair has given over the years.

Brian reported that Wemyss Bay carryings were very slightly down, with coaches and commercials up.

Gourock, all down with exception of commercials

Colintraive service is running more efficiently as additional services running as and when required.

Bute Community Council held questionnaire on new timetable, with an outcome of 344 votes for new timetable. Various reasons given for voting against, with a few suggestions that timetable should integrate with air transport, rather than trains.

Rothesay waiting room is now complete.

New ticket terminal at Weymss Bay, teething problems now ironed out.

Brian added that he continues to work closely with Bute Community Council.

**ITEM 7: Public Transport Operational Update**

Bryan Tennant reported that the patronage trends on the Kilcreggan Ferry were healthy again and similar to those on the CalMac Clyde Area services. Bryan also noted that the Renfrew Ferry had now been replaced by a private operator. There was a big surge in use before the SPT Ferry stopped running. Bryan will not be able to get detail on the usage of the private operator's service.

Chair advised the group of a serious incident at Gourock whereby a coach operated by McGill's caught fire. The coach was at McInroy's Point terminal used by Western Ferries when the blaze broke out, with 16 people evacuated safely, the situation could have been much worse had the coach been on board the ferry when the blaze broke out. The Chair asked if there is going to be review of health and safety fire procedures.

Bryan responded he was not aware of this that he will investigate and respond.

The Chair asked Brian to provide update at next meeting

Ranald advised Des Bradley, First ScotRail has submitted his apologies for the meeting but that Des had provided his service update by email.

**Action:** Des Bradley's email will be copied into the meeting minute and Ranald will circulate this to members.

Update as provided by Des Bradley in email as follows-

- first of the new class 380 trains will start to enter service from September 2010 on Ayrshire and Inverclyde routes. 22 are planned to be in service by December 2010 with the roll-out completed by March 2011. They will be a mix of 3 car and 4 car trains offering increased capacity on certain services (details of exactly which services will see more carriages are being finalised). For any attendees who would like more information on the new trains, they can visit [www.scotrail.co.uk/newtrains](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/newtrains) or contact myself directly if they have any specific queries. Existing trains on the Ayrshire/Inverclyde routes will transfer to the new Glasgow to Edinburgh via Airdrie/Bathgate line
- options are still being considered for ways in which to use the spare capacity and trains released by cancellation of the GARL project

- we have worked closely with CalMac in recent months to ensure that the message has got across to rail passengers regarding the change to ferry times between Wemyss Bay and Rothesay in early May. This has included posters and leaflets being made available at Glasgow Central and Paisley Gilmour St
- the group will be aware that Network Rail's work on refurbishment of Gourock station is underway, with Phase 1 (construction of new station building) due for completion by November 2010. Phase 2, involving new canopies and glazed panels on the north wall, will get underway towards the end of the year
- Paisley St James station is closed until August 7th to allow Network Rail carry out upgrade/repair work. Alternative transport is being provided

**ITEM 8:**

**AOCB**

Donald Bannatyne asked when does Tier 2 Ferry Consultation Group meet, and who represents this group?

Ranald responded that Tier 2 meetings are held on an adhoc basis only when an issue arises. A meeting is likely to be held when the draft Ferries Plan is published as the next major stage of the Scottish Ferries Review. The Chairman (Cllr White) would represent this group in the event of a Tier 2 meeting being called.

**Action:** George will raise a request for a Tier 2 Clyde and Hebrides meeting to be held during the Scottish Ferries Review and that there may be value in this taking place during the consultation phase of the SFR.

Peter Bald advised the group that all Scottish Government transport functions are to come under Transport Scotland from 1 August.

**Action:** Peter agreed to provide an organisational chart for the new organisation when this is available.

**ITEM 9:**

**Date of Next Meeting**

Date to be confirmed, but the venue proposed for the meeting is the Seamill Hydro Hotel, North Ayrshire