



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

**Held at the Corran Halls, Oban
14:00 27 July 2010**

IN ATTENDANCE

HITRANS

Cllr Duncan MacIntyre (Chairperson)
Mr Ranaid Robertson
Mrs Katy Cunningham

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (A&B)

Cllr Gordon Chalmers
Cllr Robin Currie
Mr Douglas Blades

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Cllr Gerry McLeod

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT (FERRIES DIVISION)

Ms Judith Ainsley
Mr Colin Grieve

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE

Mr Phil Preston
Mr David Cannon
Mrs Fay Harris
Mr David Taylor

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Ms Lorna Spencer

CONFEDERATION OF TRANSPORT (CPT)

Mr Mike Dean

APOLOGIES:

Mr Andrew Flockhart
Mr Ian Fox
Mr Sam MacNaughton
Mr Desmond Bradley
Mr Donald MacRae
Mrs Jane MacLeod
Mr Phil Flanders

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Duncan MacIntyre welcomed members to the meeting

ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting 20 August 2009

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

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

ITEM 8.3: Phil advised way forward on safety issues, currently looking at a number of options

Robin Currie added there are major issue of freight costs, as costs more on Colonsay, trolleys would be a better option rather than delivery vans. One hundred residents on Colonsay and need something in place to help them.

Phil responded trolleys had been provided in the past but this was abused, but agreed issue needs to be addressed, he will take back and look at.

Ranald added this could be something to be flagged at review. First priority should be the Islanders. Perhaps community vehicle might be a solution

Judith responded this was raised at meeting last night and will be looked at in next round of consultation that it might be possible to put a trial in place, but charges would have to be made.

Action: CalMac to come back to HITRANS with options to seek solution before HITRANS December board meeting, to include copy to Ferries Division

Robin raised the issue of scheduling of this group, that group should meet twice a year

Judith responded that perhaps format should change, suggesting all ferry operators should be involved not just CalMac.

Ranald responded remit given by Tavish Scott, then Transport Minister, was for government funded services CalMac/Northlink only. This was raised at previous meeting of the Clyde group where it was agreed, to keep to government funded services only, but this might be the time to bring this up again, especially with Council operated services.

Phil added group was set up to monitor CHFS contract, and to liaise with local user groups, with issues being dealt with at this level, these meetings need to bring value, that we should use this forum to discuss integration and connectivity with all forms of transport operators, not only ferry.

Judith supported Phil's comments.

Robin commented he supports group in current format, this was set up by government and should continue until told otherwise by another government. Robin added that people from communities take three days out at their own expense and is understandable they don't attend

Ranald confirmed community representatives can claim expenses from HITRANS

ITEM 3: Scottish Government Ferry Review

Judith introduced herself to the group, giving a brief introduction before going onto present the Scottish Ferries Review PowerPoint presentation.

Judith outlined the key points and objectives of the review advising this round of consultation is taking place until 30th September.

Judith directed the group to the questionnaire which is available for downloading from the Scottish Government website and hard copies are available for those who don't have access to internet. Judith highlighted the importance of completing and returning questionnaires.

It was noted there have been some consultancy work the department are unhappy with which was not paid for and has not been published to website.

Judith added a brief environmental assessment has been completed and another, more comprehensive, environmental assessment will be completed for the final plan.

Cllr Currie requested another meeting of this group in September to discuss and aid response to review.

Ranald responded that this has been agreed with other groups and the plan was to make this meeting a joint session of all the FUG groups.

It was agreed a meeting to be held in September prior to deadline to assist with preparing a collective response.

There followed a general discussion on the review

ITEM 4: Ferry Service Development through Oban Hub Study

Ranald introduced the report on the study completed by HITRANS by Reference Economic Consultants. This item was for noting by group members. Oban Hub Study has been submitted to Scottish Government and is available for downloading on HITRANS website at www.hitrans.org.uk

ITEM 5: Caledonian MacBrayne Operational Update

Regional Managers David Taylor and Faye Harris reported on routes within their areas and provided the group with performance reports providing information on reliability and punctuality of routes covered

within the group area for the period January to May 2010. Performance reports and statistics were issued prior to meeting.

Robin asked if carryings can be included in stats/performance reports.

David Canon responded CalMac would be unable to detail carryings for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Fay added that Port Ellon pier will be closed for nine months for port improvements to allow MV Finnlagan to serve the port. All sailings will go into Port Askaig for the duration of the works.

ITEM 6: Public Transport Operational Update

Mike Dean reported that summer season enhancements into Oban are underway. One hourly service in afternoon, with two hourly service to Glasgow. Options for greatly enhanced summer services particularly on the Campbeltown to Glasgow corridor are currently under consideration.

Robin Currie raised issue with proposed commercial charges on the Islay – Jura ferry service. Robin reported that certain vehicles under 3.5 tons are being charged the commercial rate.

Action: Moya Ingram agreed to take this issue back and discuss with Martin Gorrige to confirm the definition of a commercial vehicle.

Robin responded saying as charges are due to be implemented on Sunday 1st August he needs to know as soon as possible if changes will be made to advise his constituents.

ITEM 7: Update on Infrastructure Investment at Kennacraig and Port Ellon

Lorna Spencer reported on progress for the completion of the MV Finnlagan which is expected to enter service in spring/summer 2011. At Kennacraig a number of port improvements are being made ahead of the new vessel entering services and these include replacing mooring bollards and concreting ramp. Minor works are currently being undertaken. Major works are planned for Port Ellon and as reported under Item 5 this will see Port Ellon closed to ferry operations for a 9 month period during which all Islay services will operate to and from Port Askaig.

ITEM 8: AOCB

No items raised under AOCB

ITEM 9: Date of Next Meeting

No date set for next meeting.