



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

**Held at the Seamill Hydro, Seamill,
28 January 2011**

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LTD (CMAL)

Mr Andrew Flockhart

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE (CaIMac)

Mr David Cannon
Mr Brian Fulton
Mr Robbie Brown
Mr Alisdair Henderson

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre
Councillor Bruce Marshall
Councillor Ronnie Ahlfeld
Mrs Fay Harris
Mr Phil Preston
Mr Mike Dean
Mr Des Bradley

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting

ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting

The minute of meeting of 25 June 2010 was approved subject to a single amendment:

Item 6: delete 44 and insert 344

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

No matters raised under matters arising.

ITEM 3: Gourock to Dunoon Tender

Ranald Robertson advised the group he had made contact with Graham Laidlaw, Transport Scotland, and Graham advised he is in correspondence with EU regarding Gourock to Dunoon Ferry Service, that he is aware of community aspirations, but is unable to answer any questions at this time.

General discussion followed on the Gourock to Dunoon service.

It was agreed to minute the group's concerns that tender documents have not been issued at this time

ITEM 4: Passenger Rights – EU Compensation Arrangements

Ranald Robertson introduced a report that provided members with information on the European Parliament Passenger Rights Legislation that will increase passengers' rights when using public transport, and summarised the new consumer protection as it will apply to passengers travelling by maritime and inland waterway transport.

Action: The Chair advised DfT will be opening a consultation for comments and asked that Ranald take on board any comment submitted by members of the groups should a submission be invited from Regional Transport Partnerships.

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

Cllr Scoullar provided an update to the group reporting that First Milk have agreed to pay transportation costs as they understand the issues faced by the dairy industry on Bute.

It was **agreed** that this will remain a live item on the FUG meeting agenda to allow further updates to be provided by to the FUG.

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 – 31st December 2010.

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

Brian added that the poor season has been the result of poor winter conditions.

The Jazz festival on Bute was cancelled and this will affect business although Brian has heard a suggestion that the event may be reintroduced in 2011 to go ahead in the first week of May but this is still to be confirmed

Robbie added carryings up and down, with most routes affected due to weather. No Cumbrae ferry users group meeting held, but group happy with service, and no issues.

Margie raised the issue of potential problem with Clydeport's plans for an extensive development of Ardrossan harbour/marina that requires ferries to go out astern. Margie highlighted this could have resulted in vessels hitting a brick wall, that Margie and Robbie attended a meeting in December where CalMac gave an excellent report, and it was agreed to amend the plans. Margie urged CalMac to keep an eye on this situation.

ITEM 7: Public Transport Operational Update

Update as provided by Des Bradley, ScotRail, in email presented by Randal Robertson as follows:-

- engineering work is taking place between Glasgow and Paisley on most Sundays throughout this year to allow work to continue on the Paisley Corridor improvements - this is accounted for in published timetables and connections between train and ship are maintained
- work is ongoing with Transport Scotland on developing proposals for making use of the infrastructure improvements between Glasgow and Paisley (originally part of the GARL project) and options will become clearer later in the year
- new class 380 trains are gradually being introduced on Clyde coast services as they become available. So far, their entry into service has been slower than hoped but 10 have now been accepted

from the manufacturer, with the remainder to follow over the coming months. Once introduction to service is complete, the trains will cover most services between Glasgow and Ayrshire / Inverclyde providing more seats and greater comfort

- though possibly not of direct interest to the Users Group, the new line between Airdrie and Bathgate opened on 12th December with initially a limited service and some intermediate stations not yet opened due to severe weather delaying construction work. The line provides improved links between the west of Scotland and West Lothian - for example by providing direct rail links between Glasgow and Livingston / Bathgate. Full 4 trains per hour service is expected to commence in the spring.

ITEM 8:

AOCB

No items raised under AOCB

ITEM 9:

Date of Next Meeting

End of April, date to be confirmed, with location of Bute proposed for the meeting.