



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

**Held at the Argyll Hotel, Dunoon
24 June 2011**

IN ATTENDANCE

STRATHCLYDE PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPORT (SPT)

Mr Allan Comrie

HITRANS

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre

Mr Randal Robertson

Mr Dave Duthie

Mrs Katy Cunningham

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL (IC)

Councillor George White (Chair)

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (A&BC)

Councillor Len Scoullar

Councillor James McQueen

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND (FERRIES DIVISION)

Mr Douglas Ellis

Mr Richard Hadfield

CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE (CalMac)

Mr Phil Preston

Mr Alasdair Henderson

Mr David Cannon

Ms Susan Paterson

SCOTRAIL

Mr Des Bradley

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Denis McKenna

Councillor Margie Currie

Councillor Ronnie Ahlfeld

Councillor Bruce Marshall

Mrs Lorna Spencer
Ms Moya Ingram
Mr Mike Dean
Mr Bruce Kiloh

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting

ITEM 1: Minute of Meeting

The minute of meeting of 28 April 2011 was approved as a true reflection of the meeting.

ITEM 2: Gourock to Dunoon Ferry Service Contract Award

Phil Preston presented on the new service.

- New Flag and separate company graphics/branding designed for Argyll Ferries
- 2 vessel operation, both vessels owned by David MacBrayne Limited
 - MV Ali Cat – well known on the route.
 - MV Argyll Flyer – formerly the Banrigh Connamara which will have a faster potential operating speed than the Ali Cat but will be scheduled for the same crossing time.
- Extended day
- Increased frequency
- Better connections with Rail services
- Late night sailings at weekends
- Nearly 200 extra sailings per week
- 75 minutes from Dunoon to Glasgow (best time and generally 90 minutes)
- Ferries timed for better connectivity with rail services
- Monday to Thursday
 - First sailing from Gourock at 0620hrs

- First sailing from Dunoon at 0650hrs
- Last sailing from Gourock at 2240hrs
- Last sailing from Dunoon at 2310hrs
- Fridays and Saturdays
 - Last sailing from Gourock 0100 hrs
 - Last sailing from Dunoon 0125 hrs
- Sundays
 - First sailing from Gourock 0820hrs
 - First sailing from Dunoon 0850hrs
 - Last sailing from Gourock 2220hrs
 - Last sailing from Dunoon 2250hrs
- Argyll Ferries will have their own website
- Cllr MacQueen asked if the minute could reflect that there will be a bus service linking Gourock Interchange to Inverclyde Royal Hospital. (It would be worth circulating the timetable with the Minute).
- The management of Gourock has transferred to Wemyss Bay (Colin Gillies).

There then followed a questions and answer session that covered the following issues:

Cowal Games planning – Alasdair Henderson indicated that there are plans to have a third vessel for the Cowal Games service plus using the MV Saturn at the end of the day. Also conscious that there needs to be forward planning for future Cowal Games over the lifetime of the 6 year contract.

Carrying capacity – Ali Cat 240 pax with full crew and Argyll Flyer approx 200 pax.

Inclement weather performance – The Argyll Flyer previously operated in Atlantic conditions to the Arran Isles so she will be well equipped to deal with Clyde conditions.

ITEM 3: AOCB

The Chair asked for an update on the roof and walkway of Gourock station refurbishments.

Des Bradley responded that works are expected to be completed by December this year. Des added that he is keen to work with CalMac to integrate the two transport modes as best they can.

Councillor MacIntyre asked if MV Seabus was DDA compliant on Gourock as questions have been raised regarding this.

Allan Comrie responded CMAL cover Gourock, but can confirm DDA compliance is met.

David Cannon informed the group that Caledonian MacBrayne won the Public Transport Operator Award for the second year running at the Scottish Transport Awards

ITEM 4: Date of Next Meeting

No date set for next meeting