



that were uncovered on sea trials. In terms of service reliability the Forum noted that both the Dunoon/Gourock and the Colintrave/Rhubodach routes had 12 sailings cancelled with 99% and 100% respectively of those sailings running on time and that the Portavadie/Tarbert service was back to hourly sailings. It was noted that the cancelled sailings figure did not include sailings cancelled due to the MV Argyll Flyer

modelling of predicted service levels and the Forum noted that CalMac, as the operator, provided data from last 10 years to Transport Scotland and that the demand for the routes was to be discussed at Reference Group meeting on 28 May 2021.

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted the update and agreed to continue the item.

#### **(d) Shore Side Infrastructure at Dunoon**

meeting in August 2021.

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted the position.

The Ferries representatives left the meeting at this point.

## **5. POLICE SCOTLAND**

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Emma Grimason, Police Scotland, to her first meeting with the Forum.

CI Grimason introduced herself and informed the Forum that she will be supported by the newly appointed Inspector John Forrest. She gave an update on matters she had recently been attending to, which included working with the Community Engagement Team to establish a Day of Action to be held on 27 May in Dunoon. This will see an increased police presence in the area with the aim to pro-actively address problem areas through education such as bike marking at the Band Stand in Dunoon, safe passing distances when vehicles overtake cyclists, a speed detection event to address complaints in the Bullwood Road area, promotion of a national motorcycle campaign reporting on high profile speeding and working in conjunction with Transport Scotland around the influx of tourists to more rural areas due to staycation activity. The Forum noted details of the event will be promoted on social media with local press coverage.

The Forum noted that the Youth Programme would be re-instated in a revised format once a review had been completed.

### **Outcome**

The Forum;

1. noted the update;

2. noted that CI Grimason would ask Police Officers CI Grimason would ask a 1 e0 0 153(a)-3

## **6. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

### **(a) VMS and Manual Signs**

Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, updated the Forum in relation to VMS and manual signs and highlighted that the main issue with VMS is finding a mains connection and due to the costs involved advised the Forum that signage will be reviewed between medium and long term solutions as part of a move towards relying on social media and radio travel updates for information.

#### **Outcome**

The Forum noted the position and agreed to continue the item.

### **(b) A83**

Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, advised the Forum that whilst work was ongoing at the Rest and Be Thankful (RABT), most work on A83 and A82 Loch Lomondside was completed and that the A82 Inverarnan stretch would be subject to overnight closures from 27 May 2021 and the next major resurfacing works on the sections of the A83 close to Cowal are expected to take place in September/October 2021. The Forum noted that multiagency work monitoring and managing traffic, particularly in Loch Lomond area, was underway.

Discussion focussed on the RABT medium and long-term proposals including ongoing discussions with Forestry and Land Scotland regarding the option for a new road along the corridor of the existing forestry access track. The condition of A8/M8 between Newark Castle and Glasgow Airport was also raised.

#### **Outcome**

The Forum;

1. noted the update; and
2. agreed that Neil MacFarlane would raise concerns over the condition of A8/M8 with relevant officers in Transport Scotland and report back to the Forum.

## **Outcome**

The Forum noted the information.

### **(b) Reduced Bus Services**

Jeff McCormick, West Coast Motors (WCM), advised the Forum that service levels were currently at 90% pre-covid levels and discussion focussed on getting all services back on as soon as possible whilst looking at alternatives such as Pingo and how WCM are funded through fare revenue and concessionary fares which have severely reduced and how Transport Scotland has guaranteed to assist in plugging the funding gap only until the end of June 2021. The Forum also noted that all vehicles used to service bus routes were Equality Act compliant.

## **Outcome**

The Forum noted the position.

### **(c) Bus Stop at Rest and Be Thankful**

The Forum considered the update from the Public Transport Technician in relation to the bus stop ramp at the Rest and Be Thankful.

## **Outcome**

The Forum noted the update.

## **8. TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP**

Iain Catterwell, Timber Transport Group, updated the Forum on recent activities which included that Hell's Glen forestry works should be complete within the next 3 weeks with no significant issues other than a few drivers choosing to break through the signs; that subject to ministerial approval expected soon a further inv

As there was no one present from Kilfinan Community Council to give an update there was no discussion on the item.

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted the position and agreed to continue the item.

## **10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

The Forum discussed the circulated Council policy regarding giving out information about road closures or temporary works. Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council, gave examples of this policy not having been implemented and it was agreed that the detail of these examples would be fed back to the service for further enquiry.

Confirmation was sought and received around the maximum timescale of 18 months that a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order can be in place for.

### **Outcome**

7KH )RUP DJUHHG WR IRUZDUG LOOLH /DKY REVHUYDWLRQ WR WKH (HFWLYH 'LUHF responsible for Roads and Infrastructure and to keep this item on the agenda.

## **11. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was agreed that the future meetings of the Cowal Transport Forum would be held on;

Friday 20 August 2021; and