

MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held in the TIMBER PIER BUILDING, DUNOON on TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 2018

Present: Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)

Councillor Jim Anderson

Ross Moran, Caledonian MacBrayne
Iain Slorach, Caledonian MacBrayne
Yvonne Hanley, Caledonian MacBrayne
Evan MacKay, Caledonian MacBrayne
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries
Alex Burton, Police Scotland
Iain McNaughton, Sandbank Community Council
Eleanor Stevenson, South Cowal Community Council
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council
Kenny Matheson, Dunoon Community Council
Jim Wilson, Hunters Quay Community Council
Iain MacInnes, Lochgoil Community Council
Cathleen Russell, Colglen Community Council
Iain Catterwell, Argyll Timber Transport Group

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

George Fiddes, Transport Scotland
John Mearns, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
John McGregor, Scottish Water
Gordon Donald, Cairndow Community Council
John McInnes, Hunters

4. POLICE SCOTLAND

No written report provided.

5. NEW ITEMS RAISED

(a) Tour Coaches Parking in Bus Stops around Dunoon

Bobby Good informed the Group that local bus drivers were having difficulties accessing bus stops around Dunoon as tour buses are continually parking for long periods of time in the bus bays, letting off and picking up 40/50 passengers which is affecting West Coast Motor passengers. They often park until the passengers are ready to go back on.

Discussion took place around the parking bays throughout Dunoon, specifically, issues related to taxi ranks and cars parked on the opposite side of the road causing congestion at the Queens Hall. It was also noted that parking bays were on the wrong side of the road resulting in passengers

MacInnes asked if there is a completion date set for the traffic lights to be removed.

Outcome

The Group agreed to write to George Fiddes at Transport Scotland and ask for a completion date for the traffic lights to be removed at the Rest and Be Thankful; and if there is a possibility of opening the Military Road on a temporary basis to help improve the flow of traffic.

(b) VMS Timescales

The Chair updated the Group on an email he received from Transport Scotland advising that both Variable Message Signs had been erected at Kilmun and Strachur and that they would be commissioned in the coming weeks and operational soon thereafter. The email also advised that the concrete plinths had been installed and all 5 boxes would be in situ by next week.

Outcome

The Group agreed to write to Transport Scotland to seek confirmation on a specific timescale for the operation of the Variable Message Signs and the reasons behind the delay in commissioning the signs.

7. FERRIES UPDATE

(a) Dunoon to Gourock Ferry Services

Ross Moran of Caledonian MacBrayne provided the following update:-

- In the last 6 months of the 9,505 planned sailings there were 8,445 actual sailings.
- There were 869 cancellations in the last 6 months.
- There is now a Security Guard in place on the vessels on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday due to alcohol related incidents.
- Ticket machines had been replaced.
- 3G and 4G wifi was now built in Td (b) Tj () T9 34448096800089697

possibility of changing the vessels under the existing contract and to express extreme dissatisfaction regarding the timescales of the tender process.

2. Agreed to contact Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd regarding the concerns of the inadequate berthing facility at Gourrock and disability access.
3. Noted that representation from the Cowal Transport Forum would be sought on the Clyde Ferry Stakeholders Group.

Western Ferries

Gordon Ross provided the following update:-

- New linkspan at McInroy's Point is fully operational.
- The linkspan at Hunter's Quay was under construction and work would be completed over the summer.
- Western Ferries were maintaining a 99.9% level of reliability service.
- All efforts had been taken to minimise congestion of traffic at Hunters Quay.
- It had been very busy with the excellent spell of weather with all businesses seeing an uplift.

8. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

(a) Helensburgh - Carrick Castle Bus

Douglas Blades confirmed that he had written to SPT with regards to the Helensburgh – Carrick Castle Bus Service asking that the timetable be amended to enable this service to connect with the Citylink service at the top of the Rest and Be Thankful on school holidays and Saturdays.

Outcome

1. Douglas Blades agreed to forward a copy of the SPT letter to Iain McInnes.
2. The Group agreed to write to SPT and ask that they consider the last bus going further on to Carrick Castle when they renew the contract.

(b) Alexandra Parade Bus

Douglas Blades confirmed he had nothing to report on this item. He agreed to ask his colleagues to follow this up.

(c) Bus Stops, Toward

The Group considered a letter from Paul Convery, Planning Policy Officer, regarding the potential for developers being asked to provide bus stops as part of the planning permission for housing developments.

Douglas Blades informed that he had not received a date for a possible

site visit but would pass this onto Stephanie McGlynn who would attend the site visit with Bobby Good and Paul Convery.

(d) **482 and 483 Services**

Douglas Blades confirmed he was waiting on a date from the Traffic Commissioner for the re-registration of this service. He informed the Group that there were spare bus shelters at the depot in Dunoon and they were currently waiting on tenders coming back for a company to erect the bus shelters.

He confirmed that the 4 bus stops between Sandbank and Sandhaven had been marked both ways.

(e) **Dial-A-Bus**

Douglas Blades confirmed that discussions, regarding the provision and promotion of a Dial-A-Bus service, were ongoing. He suggested putting an advert in the local paper and asking the Communications Team to post an announcement on the Council's Facebook page on 13/06/2016. (bus)Tj ()Tj

Kevin informed the Group that the drainage provision in Argyll Street had been cleaned during the weekend 9-10 June 2018.

Discussion took place on road markings which were causing road safety issues. Councillor Jim Anderson raised safety concerns around faded road markings, specifically at Victoria Road/Hamilton Street junction and on Bencorrum Brae.

- Willie Lynch of Dunoon Community Council asked if it was possible for double yellow lines on Wellington Street to be extended to the West Bay Swing Park.
- Iain McNaughton of Sandbank Community Council asked if resurfacing could be done at the bottom part of Sandbank Road at the Dunoon end as HGVs were bouncing along

10. LOGGING LORRIES - SANDBANK

The Group considered a letter from Kirsty Robb of Argyll Timber Transport Association. Iain McNaughton, on behalf of Sandbank Community Council, raised concerns over the speed of logging lorries travelling through Sandbank, causing debris to fall from the lorries thereby presenting a danger to pedestrians. He advised that residents of Sandbank consider this matter as a potential hazard and suggested that the lorries voluntarily travel at a lower speed

Iain Catterwell from Argyll Timber Transport Association spoke on behalf of Kirsty's letter, advising that he had never had any complaints in the last 30 years regarding debris falling from logging lorries.

Outcome

It was agreed that Iain Catterwell would contact the Forestry Industry Safety Commission to raise this issue.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

No further items of business were raised.

12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meetings nTd (of)Tj ()Tj -4104199524 0 Td (pedehg31te cm N1