

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held via SKYPE  
on MONDAY, 24 MAY 2021**

**Present:** Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)  
Councillor Bobby Good  
Councillor Audrey Forrest

**Attending:** Melissa Stewart ± Governance Officer  
Martin Arnold ± Contract Officer  
Tommy Gore ± Area Operations Manager, Calmac  
Gordon Ross ± Western Ferries  
Alistair McLundie - Western Ferries  
Iain Slorach ± Client Manager, Calmac  
Iain Catterwell ± Timber Transport Group  
Chief Inspector Emma Grimason ± Police Scotland  
Neil MacFarlane ± Transport Scotland  
Murray Rogers ± West Coast Motors  
Jeff McCormick ± West Coast Motors  
Iain McInnes ± Lochgoil Community Council  
Willie Lynch ± Dunoon Community Council  
Ronnie McAlister ± Bute Community Council

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

that were uncovered on sea trials. In terms of service reliability the Forum noted that both the Dunoon/Gourock and the Colintraive/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 being unavailable.

Discussion was had on the accessibility of the gangway for all users and the Forum noted that CalMac were in the process of procuring a replacement gangway, due to be installed in the near future.

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)

## 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

## **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 fund

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