

councillors to discuss related transport issues. Councillor Hampsey also advised of the proposed Active Travel route for Dunoon.

4. FERRIES UPDATE

(a) **Travel Subsidies - Discussion led by David Clough, Dunoon Community Council**

David Clough from Dunoon Community highlighted that he had attended the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group in August and that Mr Ross of Western Ferries had attended and had suggested that if Western Ferries had access to the same level of subsidies offered to Calmac, Western Ferries fares could be halved and a direct Dunoon/Glasgow bus introduced.

Mr Clough highlighted that connectivity is crucial for the area with their being a lack of integration between existing ferry services and the rail network. Mr Clough also suggested that Transport Scotland would not be retendering the ferry contract which would likely be awarded to Calmac.

Mr Ross advised that he believes that the current annual subsidy for the Dunoon to Gourock service amounted to around £5 million which equated to around £25 per passenger.

Robert Trybis reported that Harbours fees out weight the operational cost of the ferry and that it is the wish of the Dunoon Gourock Ferry Action Group and 5 Community Councils that Argyll and Bute Council and CMAL agree a long term lease of the Linkspan.

Kerris Bone advised that as a frequent user of Western Ferries she had not seen any more than five foot passengers on the service and that the Dunoon Linkspan is very important.

Kirstie Reid advised she had attended the Clyde, Kintyre and the Islands Ferry Stakeholder Group and had noted some concerns around ferry users onward journeys via Scotrail services being interrupted due to poor timetabling. A Gu6rruoor t

Western Ferries

Gordon Ross advised that Western Ferries had issues with one of their vessels during the early part of December but all four vessels were now back in operation. Mr Ross highlighted that the Christmas timetable was now agreed with limited services over Christmas, Boxing day and the 1st and 2nd January with the timetable available on Western Ferries website.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update from Western Ferries.

Calmac

Tommy Gore advised that the MV Ali Cat had recently been unavailable as it was undergoing an annual overhaul and that the two vessel service has since returned. Mr Gore highlighted that due to three separate technical events the Dunoon Linkspan was unusable and as such a replacement bus service had been provided.

Kerris Bone raised concerns around the way in which ferry disruptions were advertised, adding that older people do not always have access to the website to find this out.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update from Calmac and that further consideration would be given to the way in which ferry disruptions are advertised.

5. PUBLIC

route is added the mileage would have to be removed from another.

Mr Stewart advised 68% of all Pingo users were over 60s, 11% were fair payers and only 21% were 5-15 year olds.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update from West Coast Motors.

6. ROADS UPDATE

(a) Opportunity for verbal updates by Cowal Transport Forum Members

Kirstie Reid advised that the road at Loch Eck recently been flooded on both sides and asked when the white lines would be reinstated on the Hamilton Street/Victoria Road.

Tom Murray asked for an update on the B828 Glenmore road which had been shut since October.

The Committee Manager advised that Dave Cooper had raised the matter of the signage on Marine Parade and advised that it was his understanding that a new local roads officer would be in post shortly and would pick this up.

The Forum noted that the information provided by Police Scotland.

8. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND