



**Argyll and Bute Council**  
**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid**

*Customer Services*  
*Executive Director: Douglas Hendry*

*Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT*  
*Tel: 01546 602127 Fax: 01546 604435*  
*DX 599700 LOCHGILPHEAD*  
*9 March 2020*

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

A meeting of the **COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM** will be held in the **TIMBER PIER BUILDING, DUNOON** on **MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2020** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry  
Executive Director of Customer Services

**BUSINESS**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3. MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 14)

Minutes of the meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum as held on Monday 23 September 2019.

**4. FERRIES UPDATE**

- (a) Verbal Update by Chair
- (b) Gourock to Dunoon Ferry Service (Pages 15 - 20)
- (c) Shore Side Infrastructure at Dunoon
- (d) Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) (Pages 21 - 22)
- (e) Caledonian MacBrayne (Pages 23 - 24)
- (f) Western Ferries

**5. POLICE SCOTLAND**

**6. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

- (a) VMS and Manual Signs

(b) A83

**7. PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- (a) McGills 907 Service to Glasgow
- (b) Bus Stop at Rest and Be Thankful
- (c) Dial-A-Bus
- (d) Fountain Quay Bus Shelter
- (e) Kames Bus Stop
- (f) 479 Dunoon to Rothesay West Coast Motors Service
- (g) Integrated Transport

**8. TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP**

Update by Iain Catterwell, Project Officer – Argyll Timber Transport Group

**9. ROADS UPDATE**

- (a) Carriageway Roundels and Additional Signage at Colintraive
- (b) Dunoon Pier
- (c) Parking Restrictions- Bus Bays at Queens Hall; Tudor Rooms and Morrisons
- (d) Road Markings in Cowal - General update (Pages 25 - 26)
- (e) Speed Surveys
- (f) Traffic Management in Tighnabruaich, Kames and Millhouse

**10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

- (a) Railings (Pages 27 - 28)

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Cowal Transport Forum**

Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)

Contact: Melissa Stewart - Governance Officer 01546 604331

Adele Price-Williams - Senior Committee Assistant - 01546 604480

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held in the TIMBER PIER  
BUILDING, DUNOON  
on MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Present:** Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)  
Councillor Jim Anderson  
Councillor Bobby Good  
Melissa Stewart, Argyll & Bute Council  
Scott MacLean, Calmac  
Ian Slorach, Calmac  
Simon Richmond, Calmac  
Captain Alistair McLundie, Western Ferries  
Marta Zawadzka, Argyll & Bute Council  
Martin Arnonld, Argyll & Bute Council  
Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council  
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council  
Graham Revill, Kilmun Community Council  
Paul Paterson, Kifinan Community Council  
Iain MacNaughton, Sandbank Community Council  
Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland  
Michael Breslin, South Cowal Community Council  
Chief Inspector Douglas Wilson, Police Scotland  
Cathleen Russell, Colintrave & Glendaruel Community Council  
Iain Catterwell, Timber Transport Group

The Chair intimated that due to the need for Officers to attend to other business he would take the items relating to Public Transport after item 4 "Ferries Update"

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were intimated by:

Councillor Gordon Blair  
Councillor Audrey Forrest  
Fulton MacInnes, Hunter's Quay Community Council  
Debbie Donald, Cairndow Community Council  
Iain McInnes, Lochgoil Community Council  
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries  
Andy Barron, Road Policing Unit

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Good made a financial declaration of interest in item 5(f) of these minutes on the basis he is a part time employee of West Coast Motors. He remained in the room while the Forum was updated by Martin Arnold, Contract Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, taking no part in the short discussion.

### 3. MINUTES

The minute of the previous meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was approved as a correct record.

### 4. FERRIES UPDATE

#### (a) **Response from P Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands**

The Forum were invited to consider an update from Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, in response to the Chair's letter of 14 February 2019 inviting him to attend the March 2019 meeting of the Forum; and a response from the Transport Scotland's Aviation, Maritime, Freight & Canals Team dated 20 September 2019 regarding RET which set out that officials were looking into costs, risks and opportunities of fare reductions on the service.

While apologising for non-attendance due to diary commitments, the Minister took the opportunity to recap on the present situation with the Gourock-Dunoon ferry service advising that with the completion of the service transfer discussions were taking place regarding future vessel and shore side options. While the Clyde Ferry Stakeholder Group is the official forum for consultation of matters pertaining to the Gourock-Dunoon service the Minister confirmed the Forum would be kept informed of progress.

#### **Outcome**

The Forum:

1. Noted the update provided by the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands and expressed disappointment at the time taken to respond;
2. Agreed that the Chair would write to the Minister expressing the Forum's dissatisfaction with the lack of progress towards procuring new ferries and introducing RET fares;
3. Requested that fare prices for website and bucket tickets be sent to Melissa Stewart, Area Governance Officer, for distribution to the Forum;
4. Noted that a report on Infrastructure would be presented to the Bute & Cowal Area Committee in either December 2019 or March 2020; and
5. Noted that the Council may not yet have set out its formal position on the service and agreed to invite officers from the Economic Development Team to attend and hold discussions with the Forum in view of concerns that the higher fare structure may be a deterrent for visitors to the area.

(Ref: Letter from Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, submitted and letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> September from the Ferries Policy Officer, tabled)

(b) **Caledonian MacBrayne**

The Forum were invited to consider the submitted update by Simon Richmond, Calmac, in response to the issues raised at their last meeting which included historic carrying figures; arrangements for replacement bus service and details of the contact within the organisation regarding timetable changes.

Mr Richmond then spoke about the drop in passenger figures for Cowal Games, down 15% on previous years, and that there was currently no third vessel available for the route on Games Saturday with the Clyde Clipper in the process of being sold. With the lower figures there was no desperate need for the third boat. He also advised that the Argyll Flyer had recently been in the dry dock and during that spell the Calmac colours had been completed on the vessel, the Ali Cat would be in the dry dock at the end of October for similar treatment.

The Forum then discussed the oil leak at Gourock Linkspan that had caused recent problems and had taken over 2 weeks for replacement parts to be fitted and Scott MacLean, Calmac, spoke regarding a trial of bodycams for crew on the basis of passenger disruption which was unfair on staff. This behaviour generally occurred on the late sailings. Chief Inspector Wilson encouraged Calmac to report any incidences directly to Police Scotland by use of 101 for non-emergency incidents and 999 for emergency situations.

The final point discussed was in relation to the upcoming consultation on the new timetable for Winter 2020. With the need for responses prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Forum discussion took place on suggestions from the members. The Forum rejected any suggestion of withdrawing the late night sailings. Michael Breslin, South Cowal Community Council, made reference to the use of the Coruisk on a 20 past the hour service from Gourock and at 10 to the hour departing from Dunoon using the window of opportunity for the 2 passenger ferries to undergo refits. It was noted this may not be possible due to the fact that dry dock timing is dictated but was worthwhile submitting. It was also suggested that the Coruisk should be requested for an all-day service, with Ian Slorach, Calmac, advising that this would require funding for an additional crew from Transport Scotland.

**Outcome**

The Forum:

1. Noted the update provided;
2. Agreed to express concerns to CMAL regarding the lack of parts available/in storage for repairs such as those required at Gourock;
3. Agreed to oppose any reduction in late night sailings and make representations regarding the use of the Coruisk during Winter 2020 when Calmac formally consult on the timetable;
4. Thanked Simon Richmond for his contribution to the Forum and wished him well for his retirement; and
5. Noted that the contact details for the new Area Operations

Manager would be sent to Melissa Stewart, Area Governance Officer, to facilitate attendance at future meetings.

(Ref: Update and historic passenger figures from Calmac, submitted and Cowal August Dashboard Figures, tabled)

(c) **Western Ferries**

Captain McLundie, Western Ferries, spoke regarding the opening of the new linkspan at Hunter's Quay, now in full use; the drop in passenger numbers for the Cowal Games, potentially related to the bad weather in the morning; the full utilisation of the car park; plans for the new offices, due for completion in March/April 2020; and upcoming winter timetable.

Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council, made reference to the lack of disabled parking. Captain McLundie advised that the parking was currently being occupied by contractors undertaking works but that he would take away this concern and see what could be arranged to address these.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update and agreed that Captain McLundie would look at the options available for disabled parking.

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

The Chair provided an update to the Group on the arrangements that had been put in place by Transport Scotland to hold a meeting to discuss the shore side infrastructure with previously identified stakeholders on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**Outcome**

The Group noted the update provided.

**5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

(a) **McGills 907 Service to Glasgow**

Martin Arnold, Contract Officer, Argyll and Bute Council gave an update to the Forum on the discussion with McGills which he suggested may have reached a dead end. He advised that the Head of Service who now had responsibility for public transport wanted to look at the contracts in place and suggested that it might be possible to look at the fact that John Street to Kirn Brae area is not now served by any service as part of that process.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update provided.

(b) **Bus Stop at Rest and Be Thankful**

The Forum gave consideration to the response from Roads and Amenity Services regarding patrols of the area by Amenity Wardens and the lack of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in regard to tour buses parking in the bus stop. It was also highlighted in the response that monitoring by CCTV could not be carried out for legal reasons and prohibiting access by use of a barrier would not be practical due to lack of power sources.

A discussion followed regarding obstruction and whether this was enforceable. In response Chief Inspector Douglas Wilson advised that cases of obstruction raised at the meeting had not been reported to the Police and advised that unless the service bus was attempting to use the bus stop then there was no obstruction. He urged drivers to report incidences to the Police (potentially via their employers), including what companies were parking in the bus stop. Chief Inspector Wilson also advised that when his Officers had challenged anyone parked in the bus stop they had agreed to move. As a way forward the Chief Inspector queried whether some of the car park could be set aside for coach parking which was discussed by the Forum.

Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland, advised the Forum that he did not think it would resolve the issues at the Rest and Be Thankful Bus Stop by installing a layby on the Glasgow to Campbeltown side of the A83. This was due to road safety concerns caused by those crossing the carriageway which would require a Road Safety Audit and was unlikely to get consent. Mr MacFarlane indicated that he may be able to suggest some measures which may assist the situation.

**Outcome**

The Forum:

1. Noted the information provided by Roads and Amenity Services;
2. Agreed to write to West Coast Motors to encourage them, in light of advice received from Chief Inspector Wilson, to turn off the main road and attempt to use the bus stop and then report any driver/company who continued to park in the bus stop to Police Scotland; and
3. Agreed that a site visit be held to explore options for dedicated coach parking with the Chair of the Forum, Police Scotland, the Forestry Commission, Argyll and Bute Council, Transport Scotland, West Coast Motors, Lochgoil Community Council and Citylink.

(Ref: Casebook correspondence re incident 190623-000008, submitted)

(c) **Dial-A-Bus**

Martin Arnold introduced Marta Zawadzka to the Forum. Marta had recently been appointed as the Council's new Community Transport Officer and one of her first tasks would be to put together a Cowal booklet aimed at promoting the Dial-a-bus service.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update and welcomed Marta to the meeting.

(d) **Fountain Quay Bus Shelter**

Martin Arnold had not received any update from Estates on the sale of Dunclutha House and therefore no further update could be provided.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the position.

(e) **Kames Bus Stop**

The Forum were advised that the bus stop had not yet been progressed despite being due at the end of August.

**Outcome**

It was agreed that Martin Arnold would chase this matter up.

(f) **479 Dunoon to Rothesay West Coast Motors Service**

Martin Arnold spoke about the service reminding the Forum that West Coast Motors had previously agreed to run the service between Dunoon and Colintrave in circumstances where the ferry did not run. Martin made a suggestion that as part of the contract renewal process this condition could be specified.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update and agreed that Martin take this forward in due course as part of the contract renewal process.

(g) **Integrated Transport**

Murray Rogers, West Coast Motors, submitted a written update setting out that the Council produced timetable for Service 489 is designed to meet with the passenger ferry at present. With a 20-min frequency on the Hunters Quay Ferry he indicated that it shouldn't prove too difficult for bus passengers and that the main prominence will always be with the Dunoon Ferry.

Murray suggested that the main issue with the service is reliability which may be the result of any observed issues and we are currently in dialogue with Martin Arnold to seek a solution.

Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council, commented that in his experience he often observed the bus leaving just as the ferry was coming in. This caused issues as although the ferry is every 20 minutes, the bus service is every hour and did not necessarily join up. He asked that the Forum raise this point with West Coast Motors.



Discussion also took place regarding the Cowal Games Saturday night bus to Strachur with Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council, reporting that the community have been advised that there will be a £270 hire charge made when the service has been provided for 12 years with no charge. He did not consider this was appropriate when it would only add 9 miles onto the route.

### **Outcome**

The Forum agreed:

1. To invite Murray Rogers to respond to the point raised regarding the service bus departing when the ferry is approaching Hunter's Quay; and
2. To contact West Coast Motors regarding the Cowal Games Saturday last bus service to Strachur, inviting them to continue to provide the service with the local community continuing to advertise locally.

(Ref: Updated by Murray Rogers, West Coast Motors, submitted)

## **6. POLICE SCOTLAND**

Chief Inspector Wilson, Police Scotland, gave an update on matters he had recently been attending to including speeding motorists, as reported by the community council. He confirmed that speeding would continue to be monitored and that new officers were currently being trained in use of the speed detection equipment.

Chief Inspector Wilson also spoke regarding road closures on the A83 due to fatal accidents. He commented that the nature of delays are necessary to fully investigate the circumstances.

Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council, questioned whether the stretch of road between Argyll Street and Sandbank Road was monitored for speeding as it appeared to be used as a speed track on Saturday nights. Mr Lynch commented that HGVs were often observed driving at speed in this area. Chief Inspector Wilson advised that he would look into these concerns.

Cathleen Russell, Colintrave & Glendaruel Community Council, asked about the opportunity for community councils to be trained in use of speed guns and whether if procured the wider area could share the equipment and move it around. Chief Inspector Wilson replied that there are implications in terms of volunteers to do the checks, costs, storage and calibration but that it would merit a new discussion.

The Forum discussed the fact that it is generally locals who are caught speeding and that there is a need for them to accept some responsibility as 30 or 40 mph zones are there for a reason. Iain MacNaughton, Sandbank Community Council, questioned the costs of fixed speed camera and whether these costs could be used to self-fund.

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted the updated provided by Police Scotland and agreed that Chief Inspector Wilson would raise with Paul Farrell, Technical Officer, Argyll and Bute Council about the costs and likelihood of fixed speed cameras being self-funding.

## **7. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

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

Neil MacFarlane introduced himself to the Group as the person with responsibility for issues relating to the A83. In regard to the VMS Mr MacFarlane advised that he had understood they had now passed onto the Council. Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council, replied that training hadn't yet been provided and the Chair advised that he was told at the A83 Taskforce meeting in June that there was a fault with power to the signs which required to be addressed before the handover.

The Chair questioned Mr MacFarlane about the manual signs which were not yet available. Mr MacFarlane replied that he had attended a meeting with Argyll and Bute Council around 2 weeks ago when it was suggested that the signs were due to be positioned imminently.

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted that Mr MacFarlane would raise the matter with colleagues and provide an email updating them on the position with the VMS post meeting.

### **(b) A83**

Mr MacFarlane spoke regarding upcoming works in Argyll and Bute which may affect travel plans of those in the Cowal area.

### **Outcome**

1. The Chair thanked Mr MacFarlane for his attendance and suggested that in terms of the order of business, as the meeting generally heard from ferry operatives first to allow them to leave the meeting thereafter, Mr MacFarlane was welcome to attend the meeting from 11am to avoid having to wait for the Transport Scotland items.
2. It was agreed the details of the bridge and road works raised would be forwarded by email to the Forum members.

## **8. TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP**

Iain Catterwell, Timber Transport Group, spoke about the issues raised at the last meeting commenting that he was struggling to get confirmed reports of the matters previously raised at Kilfinan. He reported that use of the B8000 route had provided over £1m into the South Cowal area as well as updating the Forum that a de-brief was intended with operators after the season ended which would reflect on lessons learned. Mr Catterwell also pointed out that the B8000 would benefit from investment in the road, with match funding being provided by the industry towards improvements. It was suggested that the investment could be used to increase provision of passing places on the route and Mr Catterwell indicated that he would raise with the communities involved to ensure they were had a say in any suggestions that the Timber Transport Group proposed.

Responding to the alleged stockpiling of timber at Kames Golf Course without permission Mr Catterwell advised that the land was owned by the person stacking so he thought it may be possible for discussions. Paul Paterson, Kilfinan Community Council, confirmed that this issue had gone quiet and he therefore assumed matters had been resolved.

Mr Paterson mentioned a planning application which had been submitted that may lead to the road being temporarily being removed with Chief Inspector Wilson and Iain Catterwell commenting that this would leave no suitable route for large vehicles. Mr Paterson was currently looking into this on behalf of the community.

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted the updated provided and it was agreed that Mr Catterwell would work with Kilfinan Community Council to establish what implications the planning permission application may have.

## **9. ROADS UPDATE**

### **(a) Carriageway Roundels and Additional Signage at Colintraive**

In the absence of Roads Officers the Forum were provided with a written update on all matters previously raised and had additional information before them from casebook that roundels and signage had been approved for implementation in Colintraive,

### **Outcome**

The Forum noted that the roundels and signage were still not in place and it was agreed that Chief Inspector Wilson would pursue this directly with Roads.

(Ref: Casebook update re incident 190124-000836, submitted)

(b) **Dunoon Pier**

The Forum considered a written update from Roads and Amenity Services regarding the TRO at the Pier which advised that a set of proposals were being developed to deal with the marshalling area and the bus lane/facility at the pier. This would form the detail of a future TRO to be considered by the Area Committee.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the updated provided and that a report would be submitted to the Bute & Cowal Area Committee.

(c) **Parking Restrictions- Bus Bays at Queens Hall; Tudor Rooms and Morrisons**

Written confirmation was provided by the Roads and Amenity Service that the TRO objection was unlikely to be removed and as such this would need to be a hearing by the Reporter.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update provided.

(d) **Parked Vehicles on Paving Slabs Outside Argyll Hotel**

Councillor Jim Anderson confirmed that the works to install bollards and chains had now been installed.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted that the outstanding action had been completed and agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

(e) **Road Markings in Cowal - General update**

An update was considered by the Forum regarding white lining at the A8003 T-junction at Glendaruel which was due for completion in August 2019, and on the feasibility of procuring a white lining vehicle. The update advised that the Council does have road marking trailer in the fleet but do not have any trained operatives. Arrangements for training were being progressed but would be dependent on budgets and other training priorities.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update and minuted their dissatisfaction that previous information received indicated that contractors had to be brought in to undertake white lining because the Council did not own a vehicle to undertake this work.

(Ref: Casebook incidents 190701-001003 and 190701-001005, submitted)

(f) **Speed Surveys**

Confirmation was received that the revisits to Cairndow, Oakbank at Sandbank and Kirn had now been undertaken. The Forum were advised that a report would be taken to a future Bute & Cowal Area Committee setting out the findings of the surveys and that the Service had an intention to post speed survey data on the Council's website to enable communities to self-serve.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update provided.

(Note – Councillor Good, Willie Lynch and Archie Reid left the meeting at this point)

(g) **Traffic Management in Tighnabruaich, Kames and Millhouse**

It was raised in the written update that additional details would be required on the specifics at these locations and that monitoring of time transport would be carried out when time is being extracted in significant quantities.

Paul Paterson, Kilfinan Community Council, intimated to the Forum that the community council would be seeking to litigate against the Council if the road traffic issues were not sorted out.

**Outcome**

The Forum agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

(h) **Grit and detritus Removal Required from Pavements and Channels - Kilmun and Strone**

It was noted that the works requested had now been undertaken.

**Outcome**

The Forum noted the update provided and agreed that the item could be removed from the agenda.

**10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

Iain MacNaughton, Sandbank Community Council, spoke regarding a recent article in the press about procurement of railings and the costs of repairs in terms of the procurement policy in place.

Paul Paterson, Kilfinan Community Council, thanked Police Scotland for attending at Kilfinan for numerous accidents over the last months, commenting that the service provided was greatly appreciated. Iain MacNaughton, echoed the view and also thanked Police Scotland for their valued attendance at meetings.

**Outcome**

It was agreed to ask the Procurement Manager to comment on the process for the railings at installed John Street.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2019**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum would be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and that an agenda item be added to set the March meeting date at the start of the agenda for the next meeting to ensure all partners were in attendance to comment on availability.

**Aviation, Maritime, Freight & Canals**

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF  
 T: 0141-272 7145  
 alison.wills@transport.gov.scot



CÒMHDAIL ALBA

Councillor Alan Reid  
 Chairman  
 Cowal Transport Forum  
 136 Fairhaven  
 Dunoon  
 PA23 8NS  
 Argyll and Bute Council  
 By email: alan.reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Our ref:  
 2019/0029006

Date:  
 28 October 2019

Dear Councillor Reid

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2019 to Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy Connectivity and the Islands, regarding the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service. As a member of the Ferries Unit in Transport Scotland, I have been asked to respond.

With regard to fares, I refer to the point made by Chris Wilcock, in his letter to you of 23 July 2019, that Mr Wheelhouse has committed to further consideration of future fares and costs, risks and opportunities of fares reductions on the Gourock – Dunoon ferry service are being considered; we will keep the Forum informed. For you information, CalMac have informed us that books of ten tickets are available through local retail outlets (“bucket shop tickets”) which represent a significant saving on the advertised fares and already permit regular travellers to sail at rates below the RET formula.

As you are aware from previous correspondence with the Minister, officials have been undertaking discussions on future vessel and shoreside options with CalMac, CMAL and Argyll and Bute Council. This work is currently ongoing and we have started the Gourock Harbour project, which is in its early stages of development. The project will be led by a Steering Group which is next due to meet on 30 October 2019.

More information on the project will be provided as it progresses and my colleague Susan Malcolm, Head of Ferries Infrastructure, has informed the Forum that TS officials would be willing meet in the new year.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

*Alison Wills*

Alison Wills  
 Ferries Policy Officer

This page is intentionally left blank



---

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**5 MARCH 2020**

---

**DUNOON TO GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE**

---

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with some of the background relating to the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service, along with plans for the future.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government announced in December 2018 that the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service would transfer to Calmac, becoming part of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services network. It was also announced by the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Paul Wheelhouse MSP, that the service would continue to operate as passenger-only.
- 1.3 The Gourock Harbour Infrastructure & Vessels Project (GHIVP) group has now met on three separate occasions. The group is formed of representatives from Transport Scotland (TS), CMAL, Calmac and Argyll and Bute Council. TS leads this meeting; Council officers have been invited to the last two meetings. The project aims to achieve: delivery of new vessels along with harbour infrastructure upgrades at Gourock and, where appropriate, Dunoon and Kilcreggan. Whilst the group will consider upgrades at both Dunoon and Kilcreggan to suit berthing requirements, the Council as asset owner, will be responsible for all related decisions and delivery of any proposed schemes.
- 1.4 As Gourock is currently unable to accept vehicular traffic and is therefore unavailable as a back-up (or port of refuge) for the Rothesay to Wemyss Bay ferry, Calmac has approached the Council with a view to using the link-span at Dunoon if/when the need arises. Discussions are ongoing between Council officers and Calmac staff.
- 1.5 To a large extent, Council plans to re-develop Dunoon, and possibly Kilcreggan, must remain on hold until TS and CMAL can advise of their plans for the new ferry vessel. In the meantime, Council officers will continue to liaise with TS, CMAL and Calmac.
- 1.6 It is recommended that members consider this report.

---

**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**BUTE AND COWAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**DEVELOPMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**5 MARCH 2020**

---

**DUNOON TO GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE**

---

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 This report provides Members with some of the background relating to the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service, along with plans for the future.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that Members consider this report.

**4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Scottish Government announced in December 2018 that the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service would transfer to Calmac, becoming part of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services network. It was also announced by the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Paul Wheelhouse MSP, that the service would continue to operate as passenger-only.

4.2 The Scottish Government has stated that it is committed to delivering a passenger-only ferry service between Gourock and Dunoon with improved reliability and resilience.

4.3 The above Scottish Government decisions, and resultant plans by Transport Scotland, are likely to impact on the Council's marine infrastructure at Dunoon and, possibly, Kilcreggan.

**5.0 DETAIL**

5.1 The Gourock Harbour Infrastructure & Vessels Project (GHIVP) group has now met on three separate occasions. The group is formed of representatives from Transport Scotland (TS), CMAL, Calmac and Argyll and Bute Council. TS leads this meeting; Council officers have been invited to the last two meetings. The project aims to achieve: delivery of new vessels along with harbour infrastructure upgrades at Gourock and, where appropriate, Dunoon and Kilcreggan. Whilst the group will consider upgrades at both Dunoon and Kilcreggan to suit berthing requirements, the Council as asset owner, will be responsible for all related decisions and delivery of any proposed schemes.

5.2 The GHIVP group has been tasked with the following:-

- To operate a resilient passenger-only service from Gourock to Dunoon and Kilcreggan.
- To decide whether a link-span is required to operate vehicle-passenger ferry services from Arran and Bute, as an alternative mainland port.
- To identify and deliver an appropriate and proportionate infrastructure solution/option for Gourock Harbour.
- To ensure service continuity and public transport integration at Gourock Station and onward travel.
- To deliver the E-hub commitment at Gourock in line with Scottish Government policy on active travel and decarbonisation.
- To design and deliver new vessels (Class type requirements) which operate and align with the harbour infrastructure to ensure a reliable and resilient service.

5.3 TS has stated that delivery of new vessels will be dependent upon the type of design, including size and classification. Delivery of the size of vessel anticipated on the route would typically be estimated at up to 36 months.

5.4 In the meantime, the link-span at Gourock is reaching the end of its serviceable life; as such, the load carrying capacity of the link-span has been reduced by CMAL to allow use by passengers only. CMAL is currently considering medium-term options and reviewing the feasibility of returning the loading capacity of Gourock link-span to vehicle loading during 2020.

5.5 As Gourock is currently unable to accept vehicular traffic and is therefore unavailable as a back-up (or port of refuge) for the Rothesay to Wemyss Bay ferry, Calmac may approach the Council with a view to using the link-span at Dunoon if/when the need arises. Discussions are ongoing between Council officers and Calmac staff re options.

5.6 To a large extent, Council plans to re-develop Dunoon, and possibly Kilcreggan, must remain on hold until TS and CMAL can advise of their plans for the new ferry vessel. In the meantime, Council officers will continue to liaise with TS, CMAL and Calmac.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

6.1 Transport Scotland is committed to providing the necessary infrastructure for the provision of a new passenger ferry service between Dunoon, Gourock and Kilcreggan. Council officers will continue to liaise with the Gourock Harbour Infrastructure & Vessels Project (GHIVP) group.

**7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

<b>7.1</b>	<b>Policy</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Financial</b>	The Council's decision to increase in piers and harbours' fees & charges ensures that future income is sufficient to maintain and develop the Council's marine assets for future years – including Dunoon and Kilcreggan.
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Legal</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>7.4</b>	<b>HR</b>	None
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	
<b>7.5.1</b>	<b>Equalities – protected characteristics</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>7.5.2</b>	<b>Socio-economic Duty</b>	None directly arising from this report
<b>7.5.3</b>	<b>Islands</b>	See risk below
<b>7.6</b>	<b>Risk</b>	Completed works will reduce requirement to repair and maintain existing infrastructure
<b>7.7</b>	<b>Customer Services</b>	Overall improvement in travel experience and quality of journeys.

**Interim Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Infrastructure:**

Kirsty Flanagan

**Policy Lead:** Cllr Robin Currie

February 2020

**For further information contact:**

Stewart Clark, Marine Operations Manager Tel: 01546 604893

Jim Smith: Head of Roads & Amenity Services Tel: 01546 604324

**Subject:** Gourock Linkspan

Good Afternoon Mr Reid

Thank you for contacting us and I can give you an update as follows

- The hydraulic cylinder and ram seals have been changed overnight on 3 separate occasions during the last 6 weeks
- Specialist external engineers attended site last week and the whole cylinder needs to be taken out and replaced
- The seals and ram are beyond repair and the potential to cause both Health, Safety and Environmental concerns meant that we had no choice but to take the linkspan out of operation.
- A cylinder has been sourced but it needs to be fully tested and certified, we anticipate that we can replace the cylinder in the next couple of weeks using specialist contractors.
- We are under no illusion as to the inconvenience this is causing by the use of the Steps and especially to those with accessibility issues.

I hope this gives you an adequate update and we are looking to expedite matters as soon as we are able.

Best Regards,  
Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

**Kevin Hobbs**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Árd-oifigear**

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited | Stóras Mara Cailleannach Eta

This page is intentionally left blank



# Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

## Timetable Feedback Winter 2020-2021

Name: Councillor Alan Reid	Organisation: Cowal Transport Forum
Email: alan.reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk	Contact No: 07787 570 961
Route: Dunoon-Gourock	

Proposed timetables will always be based on the previous year's timetable. Change requests will only be considered if they are broadly cost neutral or where an exceptionally strong evidence base supports the need.

**Please note:** If a request is re-submitted which was previously declined on the basis of no exceptional justification, this will likely be rejected unless new compelling evidence is provided.

### Please submit details of your proposal below:

The Forum asks for consideration to be given to making more use of the Coruisk during the winter. For example, it should be used all day when it is available and not just for peak time sailings. The refits of the other vessels should take place when the Coruisk is available to substitute for them.

**CALMAC**  
FERRIES

Operators of Caledonian MacBrayne

[www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk)



**Please submit details of your supporting evidence below:**

This route has a large number of weather related cancelled sailings, especially during winter. Putting the Coruisk on the route when it is available would reduce the number of cancellations.

The same applies to refits. The Coruisk should be used to cover for the vessel away for refit.

**Please provide details of how consultation with the community was run:**

The above was discussed and agreed at the last meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum. The community have been raising these issues for many years.

Please send your completed form to [transport.planning@calmac.co.uk](mailto:transport.planning@calmac.co.uk) All forms should be submitted **by 09 December 2019**.

Feedback submitted after the closing date or by parties other than the direct recipients will not be considered.

Please submit a separate form for each route on which you wish to provide feedback.



<b>Roads and Infrastructure</b>	Members briefing note		October 2019
Prepared by	HUB team	Approved by	
<b>Lining work</b>			

Road markings are an essential aid to assist road safety and improve traffic flow to the road user. The Council arranges for external contractors to undertake lining work across Argyll and Bute's 1400 mile road network.

Road Markings are covered by legislation, Statutory Instrument 'The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions' sets out all the road markings and road signs that are available for use by the council as roads authority. The Highway Code <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code> provides information on some of the rules associated with road markings as well as providing examples of types of road markings.

Capital projects which include inlay, overlay, surface dressing, edge strengthening and re-tread will be funded via the capital budget, while the maintenance of existing road markings and safety issues will be covered by the revenue budget.

Yellow lines are provided where there is a need to restrict parking to help maintain traffic flow.

There are two types of yellow lines used to control parking:

- Double yellow lines which signify no waiting (except for loading); and
- Single yellow lines which indicate different time periods of restrictions.

Other means of parking restrictions can also be covered by yellow markings on kerbs, bus stops, zigzag lines and yellow wording on the road surface itself.

White lines on the carriageway are provided for safety.

#### **Why have their previously been delays with the lining work?**

Due to the rural locations within Argyll, we have previously found it difficult to recruit contractors to carry out this work. Working in partnership with BEAR Scotland, who maintain the trunk roads in Argyll and Bute, we have now secured a joint contract for this work to be completed. By working together we are able to both offer a more attractive single contract to contractors, as well as allowing both organisations to realise economies of scale.

#### **Why do we employ a contractor to complete the lining work?**

The comparison between the capital outlay in cost to employ a lining contractor is much less than buying our own machines and training staff. It is therefore more efficient financially to continue using contractors to complete the lining works. Even though we have 1400 miles of road we do not have enough road markings to make it economically viable to have our own dedicated machine.

#### **Are white lining works weather dependent?**

Yes. Like a lot of roads activities, white lining is largely weather dependent – you can't properly apply paint to wet roads or when de-icing salt is on the road surface, so it can only be done in periods of fair weather.

### **Why is the lining work not completed at the same time as the surface dressing work?**

Once surface dressing is completed sites have an initial sweep of the loose chips and then a final sweep 25 – 30 days after laying. It is only after this that the surface becomes available for lining.

### **When are disabled bays/give ways signs re-lined?**

Small scale hand applied road markings are applied using a different crew. In most cases it is not economical to be done on an individual basis. To ensure efficiency there is a separate programme of work issued at regular times throughout the year to capture any outstanding works.

### **Can the public request lining work to allow better access to their property?**

If access being blocked becomes a regular occurrence then a request can be made for a white line road marking at the access to your property. This will help to alert unfamiliar drivers that access is required. You can request this by contacting our Traffic Management team via our contact centre on 01546 605514 or making an enquiry online:

[https://argyllandbute.custhelp.com/app/AS/Parking\\_Enquiry](https://argyllandbute.custhelp.com/app/AS/Parking_Enquiry)

The case will then be picked up by the relevant officer and progressed.

### **What to do if people ignore the road access marking?**

Although the road access marking (sometimes called an I-bar) has no legal significance, if an access has been obstructed preventing you from leaving your property then you should contact your local police who are able to carry out enforcement action against the owner of the vehicle.

Dear Melissa,

The newspaper article and the minutes of the meeting on the issue refer to the following matters:

- a. Concerns that the installed railings are not the same as old ones, particularly in relation to visibility gap and
- b. The choice of procurement option for this requirement

The new railings are inter-visible and are suitable for siting at junctions such as Argyll St and John St in Dunoon. They are designed to be not more than 1m above the footway which is below the sightline of a driver of a car. The inter-visible nature of the railings is to allow drivers to see objects behind the railing line which are shorter than the railing height, which could be a small child or animal such as a guide dog etc. Similar railings are currently in use at the pedestrian entrance to Dunoon Primary school off Hillfoot St and at the pedestrian crossing point over the A815 at Strachur with its junction with the C57 on the route to Strachur primary school.

Scotland Excel framework was in use. By default, SXL is the sourcing route for small procurements as it engages national procurement frameworks with process and cost efficiencies.

No further actions are planned to replace the recently installed railings, unless the junction itself would change.

In addition to that, it was also noted in the newspaper article that the community had a mixed reaction to the railings, including people who were pleased with the works.

Many thanks,

Artem Derevyankin  
Procurement

This page is intentionally left blank