



Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid

Executive Director: Douglas Hendry

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17 August 2020

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM** will be held via **SKYPE** on **MONDAY, 24 AUGUST 2020** at **10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director

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 16 March 2020.

4. FERRIES UPDATE

- (a) Gourock to Dunoon Ferry Service (Pages 15 - 22)
- (b) Shore Side Infrastructure at Dunoon
- (c) Caledonian MacBrayne (Pages 23 - 26)
- (d) Western Ferries (Pages 27 - 28)

5. POLICE SCOTLAND

6. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

- (a) VMS and Manual Signs
- (b) A83

7. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- (a) Bus Stop at Rest and Be Thankful
- (b) Dial-A-Bus (Pages 29 - 30)
- (c) Kames Bus Stop (Pages 31 - 32)
- (d) 479 Dunoon to Rothesay West Coast Motors Service (Pages 33 - 34)
- (e) Integrated Transport (Pages 35 - 38)

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 (Pages 39 - 44)
- (b) Dunoon Pier
- (c) Speed Surveys (Pages 45 - 46)
- (d) Traffic Management in Tighnabruaich, Kames and Millhouse

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- (a) Update on Parking Policy Framework (Pages 47 - 48)

11. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday 16 November 2020
- Monday 1 February 2021

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, 16 MARCH 2020**

Present: Councillor Alan Reid (Chair)
Councillor Bobby Good
Councillor Jim Anderson

Attending: Archie Reid - Strachur Community Council
Gordon Ross – Western Ferries
Captain Alistair McLundie – Western Ferries
Melissa Stewart – Governance Officer
Tommy Gore – Area Operations Manager, Calmac
Iain Slorach – Client Manager, Calmac
Iain Catterwell – Timber Transport Group
Paul Paterson – Kilfinan Community Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated by:

Chief Inspector Douglas Wilson – Police Scotland;
Police Inspector Simon Shanks - Police Scotland;
Graham Revill – Kilmun Community Council;
Willie Lynch - Dunoon Community Council;
Neil MacFarlane – Transport Scotland;
Cathleen Russell – Colintrave & Glendaruel Community Council;
Michael Breslin – South Cowal Community Council;
Allan Comrie – Scottish Passenger Transport;
Councillor Gordon Blair;
Councillor Audrey Forrest;
Eleanor Stevenson – South Cowal Community Council;
Iain McInnes – Lochgoil Community Council;
Iain MacNaughton – Sandbank Community Council;
Martin Arnold – Contract Officer; and
Marta Zawadzka – Community Transport Officer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Good made a financial declaration of interest in item 7 (f) on the basis he is a part time employee of West Coast Motors. He remained in the room taking no part in the short discussion.

3. MINUTES

The minute of the meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum held on the Monday 23 September 2019 was approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

In response to the concerns raised by the Forum regarding the economic impact of higher fares on the Dunoon-Gourock ferry service, the Governance Officer read out the response from Ishabel Bremner, Manager for the Economic Growth Team, who advised that;

“The impact higher fares on the Dunoon-Gourock ferry route would have on visitor numbers and tourism is not something Economic Growth has analysed. In addition, there may be other wider factors influencing demand on a route than just ferry fares. Therefore, we do not have the required information to provide input to Monday’s discussion at the CTF.”

Outcome

The Forum agreed to invite Transport Scotland Ferries Section to attend a future meeting to discuss fares and what analysis had been undertaken on economic impacts of RET.

In relation to item 5 (a) Councillor Bobby Good informed the Forum that the 482 and 483 services pick up from John Street 4 or 5 times daily.

4. FERRIES UPDATE

(a) Verbal Update by Chair

The Chair informed the Forum that at the Bute and Cowal Area Committee on 3 March 2020 Members were invited to appoint someone to Gourock – Dunoon Infrastructure and Vessels Project Reference Group and agreed to appoint him.

The Forum also noted that a condition of participating on the group was to adhere to Transport Scotland’s rule regarding confidentiality which meant he was not in a position to share everything discussed however, Transport Scotland had announced publicly it will be at least three years, after the design which takes at least one year, before a new vessel will be in service.

Outcome

The Forum noted the Chair’s update.

(b) Gourock to Dunoon Ferry Service

The Forum were invited to consider an update from the Ferries Policy Officer on behalf of Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, in response to the Chair’s letter of 29 September 2019 regarding the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service.

Discussion focussed on the free travel pass for under 19 year olds not being applicable to ferries and the serviceable life of the linkspan.

Councillor Bobby Good updated the Forum on the decision of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee to write to Mike Russell and Paul Whitehouse ([LINK](#)) in relation to the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service.

Outcome

The Forum:

1. noted the update provided by the Ferries Policy Officer;
2. agreed to write to the Minister requesting clarification if the free bus scheme for under 19 year olds can be extended to all ferry services;
3. noted the infrastructure at Gourock had a lifespan of 40 years, was now 49 years old and that there was no planned replacement at this time; and
4. agreed to circulate the letters sent on behalf of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee to the Forum.

(Reference: Letter from Ferries Policy Officer dated 28 October 2019, submitted)

(c) Shore Side Infrastructure at Dunoon

The Forum noted that there was still a need for clarity on new ferries in order to move forward.

Outcome

The Forum noted the position.

(d) Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL)

The Forum were invited to consider the submitted update by Kevin Hobbs - Chief Executive Officer, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) in response to the issues raised at their last meeting regarding the lack of parts available and/or in storage for repairs such as those required at Gourock. Since the update was submitted the Forum noted that CMAL had advised that they will make repairs on the existing vessels until the new ferries are ready.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update.

(Reference: Update by Kevin Hobbs - Chief Executive Officer, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited dated 30 September 2019, submitted)

(e) Caledonian MacBrayne

The Forum discussed the submission to Caledonian MacBrayne (Calmac) asking for consideration to be given to making more use of the Coruisk ferry during the winter.

In addition Tommy Gore, Area Operations Manager – CalMac provided the below figures:

Gourock to Dunoon Route

January figures indicated 13.6% fewer foot passengers which was reflected in all routes due to weather conditions.

Contractual Reliability was 99.63% and Actual Reliability was 82.12%

Colintraive/Rhubodach Route

	Actual Reliability	Contractual Reliability
CHFSII Contract Year 17/18	98.5%	99.53%
CHFSII Contract Year 18/19	97.98%	99.67%
Change YoY	-0.52%	+0.14%

Discussion focussed on the small reduction in Actual Reliability, by half a percent which was still well above other routes on the Clyde in terms of service levels and that Contractual Reliability (technical and operational reasons for disruptions) had improved.

In relation to the Tarbert/Portavadie route the Forum noted a downturn in vehicle figures of 11.6% and passenger figures by 14.77%. Contractual performance was 92.06% and actual reliability was 78.04%. The Forum also noted that the Timetable Team had advised that there seems uncertainty about the change for the Winter timetable from stakeholders and hauliers so they are holding off on this decision for now until they get a clearer view. Calmac are happy to start pushing it through various channels (e.g. social media) as well as local comms, however at the moment a lot of their output is Covid-19 related so they are reducing the amount of marketing content given the uncertainty that there is at the moment. They have not had any feedback from West Coast Motors regarding their Summer 2020 timetable yet, and are still awaiting this from the local Operations Manager in Dunoon.

Discussion focused on how safety is always at the front of the decision making process when there is a decision as to whether to sail or not due to adverse weather conditions and that skippers make the ultimate decision; the age of vessels and refurbishment plans; the vessels in Holy Loch and their use as reserve vessels; and how when the Colintraive to Rhubodach ferry service is often cancelled the bus service is also cancelled. The Forum noted how this has wider implications as this service includes the school run.

Outcome

The Forum:

1. noted the submission to Calmac regarding the use of the Coruisk during winter and that no final decision had been reached;
2. agreed to write to Transport Scotland in support of the request by the Arran Ferry Committee for the Claonig-Lochranza ferry to be operational all year round, which would free up the Portavadie-Tarbert vessel to operate for the whole day on the winter timetable;
3. agreed to write to the Council to look at the possibility of having a provision in the bus service contract to ensure that the 479 service between Dunoon and Colintraive continues to operate should the Colintraive to Rhubodach ferry be cancelled; and
4. agreed to write to the Traffic Commissioner to ask if she can do anything to ensure that West Coast Motors operate the 479 service between Dunoon and Colintraive should the Colintraive to Rhubodach ferry be cancelled.

(Reference: Submission to Caledonian MacBrayne dated 9 December 2019, submitted)

(f) **Western Ferries** (Pages 13 - 14)

Gordon Ross, Western Ferries, spoke of his appreciation and gratitude to staff for keeping the service going and keeping Dunoon connected during the shocking weather in January and February.

He spoke about how the funding has been cut for the concessionary card system which is administered by the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Joint Committee but the fund needed to be refinanced as Western Ferries are still not charging the full amount and are currently absorbing some of the costs for card holders. The Forum discussed why there was no reference to this in the council's budget pack; the need to ensure Cowal is being treated fairly; and how neighbouring councils are dealing with this.

In relation to coronavirus the Forum heard how Western Ferries are attending the Scottish Public Health and NHS meetings twice weekly in Glasgow and they are following self-sanitising processes for business as usual. The contingency plan provides for the company operating the service with a 20% staff absence rate; potential to undertake overnight and daily cleaning of vessels; and continued assistance in transporting emergency services to Gourock.

The Forum further noted that there had been no complaints about disabled parking since their last meeting and it is hoped that the parking bays will be reinstated by mid-summer.

In Michael Breslin's absence the Chair tabled an update from him as attached to this minute.

Outcome

The Forum;

1. noted the update;
1. agreed that they would write to Transport Scotland about the funding to Strathclyde Concessionary Joint Committee concessionary ferry card holders in light of the 50p increase; and
2. agreed to make enquiries about the budget process for Argyll and Bute Council in respect of their contribution to concessionary ferry card funding.

The representatives from Calmac and Western Ferries left the meeting at this point.

5. POLICE SCOTLAND

Having submitted their apologies no discussion was had on this item.

6. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

(a) **VMS and Manual Signs** (Pages 15 - 16)

In the absence of Neil MacFarlane, Transport Scotland the Chair circulated an updated as attached to this minute.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update.

(b) **A83**

In the absence of Neil MacFarlane the Governance Officer read out an update which advised the Forum that during May 2020, over the course of 3 weeks of local closures, they currently plan to carry out resurfacing at the following locations;

- Campbeltown;
- South of Furnace;
- White Bridge Cottage;
- Meall Mhor;
- Erines;
- North of Bellochantuy Straights; and
- North of Gartnagrenach in June 2020.

In addition they are progressing an urgent scheme at A83 Erines, South

Lodge the week commencing 23 March 2020.

The Group were also advised on disruptive works on the A82 noting that during April 2020 there will be 17 nights of convoy working on Loch Lomondside and between 10 and 21 May 2020 for 10 nights there will be a road closure.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update.

7. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

(a) McGills 907 Service to Glasgow

As there was no Officer present from Public Transport there was no discussion held on this item.

Outcome

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

(b) Bus Stop at Rest and Be Thankful

Following on from a site visit on Monday 9 March, the Chair updated the Forum on the two preferred options that would be considered. The first was the preference of bus drivers to turn into the stop in an anticlockwise direction so that in winter they were going down and not up the hill at the sharp bend, and the second was to extend the carriageway towards the A83 to encompass two parking bays specifically for tour buses. Costings for the second option (which would also provide for the first option) would need to be prepared before any decision could be made.

Outcome

The Forum noted the information provided.

(c) Dial-A-Bus

The Forum discussed the Cowal booklet aimed at promoting the Dial-a-bus service.

Outcome

The Forum agreed to ask Officers for an update on the production of the booklet and if available, to circulate the booklet to the Forum.

(d) Fountain Quay Bus Shelter

As there was no Officer present from Public Transport there was no discussion held on this item.

Outcome

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

(e) **Kames Bus Stop**

With no update available, discussion focused on buses leaving early or not stopping at all at the stop, agreeing to ask Martin Arnold to make enquiries on this with West Coast Motors. The Forum also raised concerns that there had been no reply from Murray Rogers, General Manager – West Coast Motors on issues previously raised regarding the joining up of the service from the Hunter's Quay ferry and reinstatement of the Cowal Games service to Strachur.

Outcome

The Forum;

1. agreed to ask Officers to write to Colin Craig of West Coast Motors regarding the outstanding responses;
2. requested that Martin Arnold provide an update on outstanding action regarding the bus stop; and
3. requested that Martin Arnold explore, with West Coast Motors, reports that the bus service was leaving early at Kames and thereafter to report back on this to the Forum.

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

As there was no Officer present from Public Transport there was no further discussion held on this item.

Outcome

The Forum noted the position agreed at item 4(e) above and agreed to continue the item.

(g) **Integrated Transport**

In the absence of Willie Lynch the Governance Officer read out his submitted question asking if there are a number of West Coast Motors vehicles which do not comply with the Disability Act and some EU Regulations and therefore disabled people, people with limited movement and mothers with prams are unable to travel then when will West Coast have all vehicles compliant?

Councillor Good confirmed that as he understood it all coaches were compliant but it may be that a low floor access bus was required to take account of the types of user on the service.

Outcome

The Forum;

1. agreed to ask Martin Arnold to look at the possibility of a low floor bus being used in any new contract for bus services; and
2. agreed to instruct Officers to look provision within contracts for a service level agreement to the contractor requiring responses to queries from council within 1 month.

8. TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP

Iain Catterwell, Timber Transport Group updated the Form with the detail on this year's application to the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme. The Forum noted that the 2020/21 application to the Fund was specifically related to key Timber haulage routes totalling £1.25m co-funded as part of a £2m programme. This included proposal schemes valued at a third of a million in the Cowal area. These proposals would continue the works to improve capacity and safety completed in previous years. Specifically the proposed works are on the B8000 between Otter Ferry and Millhouse which included;

- Balliemore - overlay, culvert replacement and HGV passing place;
- North of Kilfinnan (S.Lodge) - overlay and HGV passing place;
- Drum - HGV passing place;
- Auchoirk Farm - HGV passing place; and
- Auchoirk Cottage - HGV passing place.

The Forum noted that as with all applications to competitive funds, there is no guarantee that the application will be successful, however Mr Catterwell thought the proposal was a strong candidate for funding and will be received positively by the awarding panel.

In addition the Forum noted that there had been a private application for Kilfinan Community Wood to divert timber straight to the A8003 road.

Outcome

The Forum noted the updated provided.

9. ROADS UPDATE

(a) Carriageway Roundels and Additional Signage at Colintraive

The Chair stated that the signage was there but the last time he had passed the roundels were still outstanding.

Outcome

The Forum noted the position.

(b) Dunoon Pier

The Forum noted that the Traffic Road Order (TRO) process was currently

suspended whilst under review and due to be discussed at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 17 March 2020 ([LINK](#)).

Outcome

The Forum noted the position.

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

As there was no Officer present or update submitted there was no discussion held on this item.

Outcome

The Forum noted the position and agreed to request an update.

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

The Forum considered a Members' Briefing Note, prepared by Roads and Infrastructure, in reference to lining work.

Outcome

The Forum noted the Briefing Note and that they hoped for improvement this year.

(Reference: Members' Briefing Note dated October 2019, submitted)

(e) **Speed Surveys**

Discussion focussed on the lack of a Speed Survey report at the last meeting of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee.

Outcome

The Forum agreed to instruct Officers to present a Speed Survey report to the Bute and Cowal Area Committee and that Officers send a link of where the results could be located on the council website.

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

As there was no Officer present or update given there was no discussion on the item.

Outcome

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

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was a general discussion on the use of car parks during the Dunoon Presents event for the Easter Festival and how the loss of free car parking spaces may impact on local businesses.

Outcome

The Forum agreed to seek confirmation as to the policy around the use of council car parks for local events.

(a) **Railings**

The Forum considered a response from Artem Derevyankin – Trainee Purchasing Officer, Argyll and Bute Council in relation to railings at Argyll St and John St in Dunoon.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update.

(Reference: Update from Artem Derevyankin – Trainee Purchasing Officer, Argyll and Bute Council dated 9 October, submitted)

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum would be held on Monday 22 June 2020.

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Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
Paul Wheelhouse MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Councillor Alan Reid
Chair of Cowal Transport Forum
136 Fairhaven
Dunoon
PA23 8NS

e-mail:- Alan.Reid@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Our ref: 2020/0002067
29 May 2020

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 May about free ferry travel for young people living on the Cowal Peninsula as part of the proposed free bus travel scheme in Scotland for those aged under nineteen. I have noted the points you raise about ferry travel for young people living in Cowal.

As part of the budget discussions in February, the Scottish Government committed, in principle, to implementing free bus travel for those aged 18 and under, if possible by January 2021. Our initial estimates suggest that free bus travel to people aged 18 and under would benefit around 700,000 families in Scotland. However, it is important to ensure the legal, technical and operational requirements needed to bring this policy forward are fully tested and robust prior to implementation. We will be consulting with bus operators, local authorities and other interested parties as we develop plans for implementation and delivery of this commitment. The interaction between the proposed new concessions and ferry travel will be one of the issues to be looked at as part of this work.

In addition to these targeted extensions we are reviewing options for extending public transport concessions to people under 26 and their costs and benefits. We will report progress on this as part of our wider reporting on action to tackle child poverty.

However, as is the case with the rest of the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland resources have been pivoted to respond to Covid-19 and the challenges that it presents. That has resulted in a significant reprioritisation of work within the organisation that will have an impact on a range of policy areas. In light of this, for now, the focus of Transport Scotland and our transport operators is firmly on the challenges that are presented by Covid-19.

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www.gov.scot



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Our transport operators are taking guidance from Transport Scotland's resilience team and Health Protection Scotland and are focussed on ensuring the resilience of essential lifeline services over the coming months. We are prioritising efforts on current operations and live projects and are therefore putting operational initiatives and longer term strategy work on hold for the moment. These issues will be picked up again in due course, as we return to business as usual and the accompanying urgent resilience effort is scaled back.

At present, local authorities receive funding through the local government finance arrangements in respect of local travel concession schemes. Local authorities have discretionary powers under the Transport Act 1985 to provide local travel concession schemes if they wish. The terms, conditions and level of concession offered under any such scheme are for individual local authorities and, in Strathclyde's case, the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Joint Committee (SCTJC), to decide taking into account local circumstances. The Scottish Government is unable to intervene in any decisions made by local authorities or the SCTJC relating to their concessionary travel schemes.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards



PAUL WHEELHOUSE

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From: Ruairidh Campbell

Sent: 10 April 2020 12:29

Subject: Gourock Dunoon Project - Reference Group update

Good afternoon all and welcome to this Reference Group update

Firstly, I want to reassure you that work on the project is progressing despite COVID19 and secondly I want to clarify the Terms of Reference for this Reference group.

Work undertaken since our meeting on 26 February:

- A number of press releases and responses to enquires have been provided
- Clarification was provided to Bute and Cowal Area Committee on TOR of the Reference Group
- Confirmation of the four year project timescales
- A virtual Steering Group meeting has been held
- CalMac have delivered their current and future service requirement document
- CMAL Infrastructure have developed a Strategic Business Case for Gourock
- CMAL Vessels are reviewing CalMac's service requirements and are developing their Strategic Business Case
- Argyll and Bute Council are reviewing their current plans for Dunoon
- Reference Group - Question and Answers have been provided on the project website
- On-line Survey has gone live and has seen significant uptake

Our initial meeting was very productive and it is highly encouraging to see the commitment to strong community engagement by everyone. It is in all our interests to promote transparency, as per our project's communications and consultation strategy, but equally, we all have a duty to the Cowal community to ensure accurate and consistent information is shared with regards to this project. I have circulated the proposed Communication and Consultation strategy of how and when key releases or events will be held but I am very aware that in your elected positions you will be asked questions in between these events.

As I said at the meeting, the steering group will be happy to assist and confirm accuracy of any reports you require to provide your community. While it is normal practice for some items to remain confidential (contractual matters) and items that are under discussion; we will publish the Reference Group formalised minutes and regularly update the projects frequently asked questions. This will give everyone a single source of information to refer to and ensure all project communications are accurate.

Best wishes for your Easter weekend

Ruairidh

Ruairidh Campbell
Harbour and Engineering Liaison Manager
Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd

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From: Russell MW (Michael), MSP
Sent: 18 March 2020 11:21
To: Good, Bobby
Subject: RE: DUNOON TO GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE

Dear Bobby

Thank you for this.

I have been in touch with the Minister to make my view known and I have met with senior officials in Transport Scotland. I have also, as you indicate, made it clear publicly that I believe a shorter timescale is not only achievable, but very much required.

The urgent need is to secure improvements in the passenger service. Cal mac has worked on that and more can be done, but the step change will come with new vessels. Campaigns for other objectives and especially the re-introduction of a vehicle service are a distraction and indeed the approach that has been taken on occasion by some has been, in my view regrettably and no doubt unintentionally, counter productive.

I am glad the Council has indicated to the Minister that it understands and supports the need for the procurement process to be expedited. If in addition the Council was now to express its unequivocal backing for the passenger only service from town centre to town centre and explicitly rule out other options that would add considerable weight to the argument.

I am copying this to the Minister and to the CEO of Transport Scotland as an indication of the strong local feeling and the hope that what is being sought can be achieved.

Yours aye

Michael

From: Good, Bobby
Sent: 16 March 2020 09:10
To: Russell MW (Michael), MSP
Subject: DUNOON TO GOUROCK FERRY SERVICE

Dear Michael,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee following our meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 . At the meeting Members considered a report which provided some background detail relating to the Dunoon to Gourock ferry service.

The Members wished me, in my position as Area Committee Chair, to welcome your comments on the completely unacceptable timetable for the procurement of new vessels for the Dunoon-Gourock service and to share our own frustration.

I would be grateful if you could advise the Area Committee what efforts you are making to expedite the procurement process and what the response has been to your efforts by the Scottish Government.

The Area Committee has also asked that I contact the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands drawing his attention to the damage that this long delay has caused to the Cowal economy and reinforcing the need for the procurement process to be expedited.

I, and the Area Committee, very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Cllr Bobby Good
Bute & Cowal Area Chair.



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Councillor Bobby Good

Bobby.Good@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Our ref: 2020/0001521
13 July 2020

Dear Bobby,

Thank you for your email of 17 March 2020 regarding the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service.

The Scottish government is absolutely committed to the Gourock to Dunoon ferry service as demonstrated by our major investment which includes a port masterplan to redevelop Gourock, including a replacement linkspan, two new passenger only vessels and associated harbour infrastructure adjustments at Dunoon, as well as consideration of the introduction of an electric vehicle scheme, served by e-vehicles and e-bicycles.

In order to drive the project forward, Transport Scotland has set up a Steering Group which comprises of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, CalMac Ferries Ltd, Argyll and Bute Council and Inverclyde Council. There is also a separate Reference Group made up of key local stakeholders as we recognise that it is essential that the local community has a voice and can contribute to the delivery of this project.

The view of the Steering Group is that following the detailed business case process, which ensures sound financial governance is applied and is required at various stages in the project, vessel deployment is unlikely to be achievable on the route before autumn 2024.

Detail in relation to the outline programme will be available shortly. As alluded to, the project programme is subject to our governance processes, funding availability and statutory processes. Regular project updates will be provided at key stages along with public engagement events. In the meantime, we will continue to work with stakeholders and the community to progress this important project.

Kind regards

PAUL WHEELHOUSE

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CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Councillor Alan Reid
 Argyll & Bute Council

Our ref:
 2020/0002066

By email:
Alan.Reid@argyll-bute.gcsx.gov.uk

Date:
 14 May 2020

Councillor Reid

Thank you for your email of 4 May 2020 to the Chief Executive of Transport Scotland, Roy Brannen, in regards to the Claonaig – Lochranza and Tarbert – Portavadie winter services. As a member of the ferries unit, I have been asked to respond.

As you may be aware, it has been the Arran Ferry Committee's aspiration for a Claonaig - Lochranza year round service for some time and this request has been investigated on a number of occasions through the established timetable consultation process by CalMac. The reason CalMac are unable to provide this service in the winter timetable is that it is not operationally feasible on safety grounds. For your information, CalMac have provided to the community, in as much detail as possible, the reasons why this service is not operationally feasible. Their position is set out in annex A.

Currently CalMac do try to operate additional Claonaig – Lochranza services in winter on occasions where there are disruptions on the Ardrossan – Brodick route, but only when weather conditions are suitable to do so. Each sailing is considered on a case by case basis taking into account operating environment at that time.

More recently the Arran Ferry Committee, through the annual winter timetable process, requested information on the resource requirements for such a service and cost indications for infrastructure improvements to make the service deliverable. CalMac advised that they could submit requirements to CMAL for infrastructure changes that would help enable a reliable year round service. However, the work identified would require extensive capital investment that would need to be considered against other priorities across the ferries network. Also the crew deployed on the service in summer, are deployed throughout the network as relief crew in the winter season. Therefore, CalMac would have to recruit and replace them if they operated a winter service, which would also incur significant and ongoing costs. This was discussed between CalMac and Transport Scotland and it was acknowledged that these requests exceed the service levels proposed for the route within the current Ferries Plan (2013-22) and the current Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Services contract.

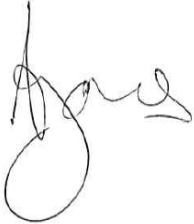
The concept of a significantly enhanced year-round service for Lochranza and an associated programme of infrastructure upgrades is a substantial change that cannot be dealt with via the timetable change process alone. These aspirations are better suited to be considered within

longer term strategic work now underway to produce the successor to the current Ferries Plan (2013-22).

We appreciate the community's willingness to contribute to the process and look forward to CalMac, Transport Scotland and the community working together on developing the future plans for services and infrastructure.

I hope you find this helpful in explaining the situation.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Jones
Ferries Policy Officer
Transport Scotland

“The main concern is operating to/from the Claonaig slipway in the winter. The reason being it is very exposed to swell as well as winds, especially from the North East to South. Operating in those conditions will make it unsafe to maintain the vessel's position while carrying out passenger operations.

The vessel has had her hull damaged at the slipway previously and operating in more challenging conditions will only exacerbate the issue. The surrounding of the slipway is very shallow and we have imposed a tidal limit of 0.3 meters to prevent further damage to the vessel.

Weather data for the area available from the Admiralty Sailing Direction South-West Coast of Scotland is as follow:

Days with winds gales as follow:

*October: 3
November: 5
December: 8
January: 8
February: 6
March: 5*

This means that at least on those days per month the vessel will not be able to operate the full day. Depending on the residual swell this might affect some of the following days too.

With regards to wind and swell, the worse directions that will effect operating to/from Claonaig slipway is from North East to South. Anything above force 5 of the Beaufort scale might lead to a cancellation. Lack of daylight will also have a detrimental effect.

Admiralty Sailing Direction South-West Coast of Scotland data is as follow:

September/October:

There is a 40% chance of having winds from that direction of which 20% between 4 to 6 of the Beaufort scale and 10% of winds between 7 to 12 of the Beaufort scale.

This translate at about 18 days for the two months where the service will more likely be disrupted partially or entirely.

November/December:

There is a >40% chance of having winds from that direction of which 28% between 4 to 6 of the Beaufort scale and 10% of winds between 7 to 12 of the Beaufort scale.

This translates at about 23 days for the two months where the service will more likely be disrupted partially or entirely.

January/February:

There is a 50% chance of having winds from that direction of which 20% between 4 to 6 of the Beaufort scale and 10% of winds between 7 to 12 of the Beaufort scale.

This translate at about 18 days for the two months where the service will more likely be disrupted partially or entirely.

So based on the above data it is estimated to be a service impact of about 30%. The majority of the effected sailings will be during the hours of darkness and dusk, this might increase the percentage of cancellations. This is why we believe operating to Claonaig is not operationally feasible”.

Alan

There are no other amounts specifically for concessionary travel so the difference will be spent on other services, including other subsidised travel that the Council agree.

Kirsty

From: Reid, Alan

Sent: 08 May 2020 14:02

To: Flanagan, Kirsty

Subject: RE: Funding of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme [OFFICIAL]

Thanks, Kirsty, That's helpful.

I see the GAE received is a lot more than the contribution made to SPT.

Does the Council pay any other amounts for concessionary travel or does the difference just get spent on other services?

Regards

Alan

Alan Reid

Hi Alan

There was nothing specific within the budget pack for the Concessionary Travel Scheme as the budget was a roll forward from the previous year and therefore was included within the base budget. We would only mention where there was a cost pressure or if there was a significant difference to the previous year's budget.

The annual contribution for 2020-21 is £205,070.69.

Councils officers are usually consulted on the requisition amount and papers explaining any movement in amount are given. The overall requisition from 2019-20 represented no change.

The amount paid is apportioned between 12 authorities based on the 2018 mid-point population for each authority and therefore doesn't reflect the actual journeys made by residents of Argyll and Bute.

We do get GAE for concessionary fares and this amounts to £516,000 for 2020-21.

Hope this is helpful.

Kirsty Flanagan

Interim Executive Director

Argyll and Bute Council

From: Reid, Alan
Sent: 04 May 2020 19:31
To: Flanagan, Kirsty
Subject: Funding of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme

Dear Kirsty

On behalf of the Cowal Transport Forum, I would be grateful for an explanation on the funding of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

I can't remember seeing anything in the Council's Budget Pack about funding from the Council to the scheme. Why is this?

I'd be grateful if you could also answer the following questions.

How much will the Council contribute towards the scheme during the current financial year?

Does the Council have any say in determining this amount or do we have to pay the amount requisitioned by the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee?

Does the amount paid reflect the cost to the scheme of journeys made by residents of Argyll & Bute?

Is the cost of the scheme to the Council reflected in the grant received from the Scottish Government?

Any other information about the scheme finances which you think is relevant would be appreciated.

Thank you

Regards

Alan

Alan Reid
Councillor for Cowal ward

Forwarded By: Niamh Middleton - Niamh.Middleton@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Subject

Dial-a-bus

Incident Reference # 200504-000079

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**

Assigned: No Value

Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.19 PM

Date Last Updated: 04/08/2020 02.18 PM

Status: Updated by Service Controllers

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (04/08/2020 02.18 PM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

As yet we haven't printed any booklets, we are unlikely to do so until the new year as we prepare timetable material for the upcoming season change and also bringing things back into alignment pre-covid as far as possible.

We will look to advertise this service in the future but it is not a current priority given the recent reactive changes to transport following the coronavirus response.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (04/08/2020 09.03 AM)

Have any more copies of the booklet been printed yet?

Note By (Niamh Middleton) (14/05/2020 11.11 AM)

happy to close the case

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (12/05/2020 10.52 AM)

Response sent to Councillor, asked for instruction

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (12/05/2020 10.49 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

We publicise this on our website at <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/m106-cowal-dialabus-bus-timetable> where people can apply and view the timetable.

A booklet is available, however at this time we are unable to print more copies due to the Coronavirus outbreak and printers not being available.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.19 PM)

The Forum asks what the Council does to publicise this service, in particular is there any booklet or on-line publication available? If so, could the Forum please be sent a copy?

Forwarded By: Katie McKenzie - Katie.McKenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Subject

478 Bus Service, Portavadie – Dunoon

Incident Reference # 200504-000081

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**

Assigned: No Value

Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.22 PM

Date Last Updated: 12/05/2020 10.39 AM

Status: Response Added

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (12/05/2020 10.39 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

If possible, can the Transport Forum provide dates and times of when this occurs, this will allow us to present data to WCM to resolve the issue. If we can't identify the driver we can't fix the issue.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.22 PM)

It was reported to the Forum that this bus often leaves the bus stop at Kames before the departure time in the timetable. Please contact West Coast Motors and ask them to tell their drivers not to leave early.

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Forwarded By: Katie McKenzie - Katie.McKenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Subject

479 Colintrave to Rhubodach bus service

Incident Reference # 200504-000078

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**

Assigned: No Value

Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.17 PM

Date Last Updated: 12/05/2020 10.51 AM

Status: Response Added

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (12/05/2020 10.51 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

This is something we are looking into at the moment to add this to the contract. Discussions are ongoing about how this can be facilitated with WCM.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.17 PM)

The Forum asks that, when bus service contracts are renewed, the Council inserts a provision into the contract for the 479 service to ensure that it continues to operate between Dunoon and Colintrave when the Colintrave to Rhubodach ferry has been cancelled.

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Forwarded By: Katie McKenzie - Katie.McKenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Subject

Service Level agreement for bus service contracts

Incident Reference # 200504-000083

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**

Assigned: Alan Reid

Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.26 PM

Date Last Updated: 12/05/2020 10.45 AM

Status: Response Added

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (12/05/2020 10.45 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

The transport team have advised they will bring this to the attention of the procurement team for input at such as time as when the SLA is reviewed.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.26 PM)

The Forum has sent emails to West Coast Motors without receiving any reply, so it asks if a provision could be included within future bus contracts for a service level agreement requiring the contractor to respond to queries from the Council within a set period, say 1 month.

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Forwarded By: Katie McKenzie - Katie.McKenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Subject

Low floor buses

Incident Reference # 200504-000082

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**

Assigned: Alan Reid

Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.23 PM

Date Last Updated: 12/05/2020 10.37 AM

Status: Response Added

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (12/05/2020 10.37 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

Each bus that is operating on a local bus route currently is accessible.

Since January, Coaches have been accessible to wheelchairs using a lift system.

Coaches are used where larger capacity vehicles are required, if there is a particular route that is a concern, this is something we can look into, however we deem all our buses to be accessible with low floor buses being used where appropriate.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.23 PM)

The Forum asks if future contracts for bus services can include low floor buses in the specification.

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Subject

Flashing 30mph sign Colintrave

Incident Reference # 190124-000836

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**

Assigned: No Value

Date Created: 24/01/2019 04.24 PM

Date Last Updated: 06/08/2020 04.03 PM

Status: Updated by Service Controllers

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (06/08/2020 04.03 PM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

Unfortunately the lining works are still outstanding as the contractor wasn't able to complete all the works required within the budget assigned.

We will be starting our capital improvement works in October and will include these within that programme.

I will request and update on the schedule at the end of October.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Niamh Middleton) (04/08/2020 09.50 AM)

hello cllr reid has asked if this case can please be updated

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (24/06/2020 07.46 PM)

Please provide an update

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (27/05/2020 11.38 AM)

Please provide an update

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (29/04/2020 09.47 AM)

Please provide an update

Note By (Niamh Middleton) (18/02/2020 03.42 PM)

sent to cllr due date updated

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (18/02/2020 03.23 PM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

These works have been instructed and are with road marking contractors to carry out. We are now awaiting a suitable dry weather window of at least 3 days in order to have them installed.

We will look to update by the end of the financial year.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (30/01/2020 01.13 PM)

Please update when the work has been carried out

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (30/01/2020 10.36 AM)

Sent to Councillor as part of monthly review

Note By (Niamh Middleton) (24/01/2020 03.30 PM)

sent to cllr for response

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (24/01/2020 03.17 PM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

The lining needs to be carried out on a dry day when operational services are available. As yet, and as we have other seasonal high priority commitments, we have been able to complete these works.

We will continue to pursue line marking contractors at the same time as trying to identify available operational staff within a suitable weather window.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Response By E-mail (Alan Reid) (23/01/2020 04.26 PM)

Can I please have an update? The community council also ask why it has taken so long to carry out the line painting. The email advising that the work would be carried out was dated 10/04/2019.

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (11/12/2019 09.32 AM)

Response sent to Councillor, asked for instruction

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (11/12/2019 09.28 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

All the signs have been erected on poles, only the white thermoplastic road markings are outstanding.

It appears unlikely that the lining sub-contractor will be available the near future as they are working on various areas across A&B. Operational Services have instead been asked to carry out the

marking of the roundels on the carriageway but these works will be dependent on availability of resources and suitable weather. They are currently not in a position to provide a date when this work could be completed.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (09/12/2019 02.48 PM)

I am awaiting response from the officer - can resolution due date be changed to end of next week please?

Thanks,

Amy

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (07/11/2019 01.42 PM)

Please update when all works are complete

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (07/11/2019 01.42 PM)

Response sent to Councillor

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (07/11/2019 01.18 PM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

The 30mph roundels were already on site since the redesign of the Colintrave Ferry Terminal.

The "Police Speed Check Area" signs are in stock and put up week commencing Mon 4 Nov.

The outstanding roundels on the carriageway and Sharks Tooth detail will be implemented when the nominated lining subcontractor is back in the area in the next few weeks.

These Works have been programmed for their visit.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Customer Liaison Assistant

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (30/10/2019 10.04 AM)

Please provide an update

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (03/10/2019 11.06 AM)

Please provide an update

Response By E-mail (Alan Reid) (17/09/2019 04.21 PM)

Can I please have an update?

Note By (Adele Price-Williams) (08/07/2019 09.34 AM)

Passed to Councillor for instruction

Note By (Frances Millar) (08/07/2019 09.20 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid

Stuart Watson has confirmed that he is awaiting return of signs estimate from Mallatitle (sign manufacturer), once received he will review and order accordingly.

Regards

Fran

Note By (Frances Millar) (04/07/2019 03.37 PM)

I have sent an email to Stuart Watson asking for an update.

Regards

Fran

Response By E-mail (Alan Reid) (01/07/2019 04.28 PM)

Please advise when these works will be carried out

Note By (Adele Price-Williams) (28/05/2019 01.59 PM)

Closed as part of monthly review

Note By (Adele Price-Williams) (26/04/2019 02.11 PM)

Councillor has been asked for a response

Note By (Adele Price-Williams) (10/04/2019 10.38 AM)

Passed to Councillor for instruction

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (10/04/2019 10.23 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

Proposals that have been agreed for implementation at this location after discussion with Stuart Watson and traffic section of Police Scotland are as follows:

- 30mph roundels on the carriageway at the exit to the ferry.
- Replace the existing repeater at the pierhead with a full sized sign.
- A gateway effect with white lining similar to Strachur south end at the approach to the 30mph limit from the north.
- "POLICE SPEED CHECK AHEAD" sign at northern approach.

These works will be carried by Operational Services along with our nominated lining sub contractor. Required signage will be ordered within the next week.

Regards,

Ailsa Barr

Administrative Support Officer

Note By (Adele Price-Williams) (29/03/2019 02.36 PM)

Please can an update be provided for the Councillor

Note By (Adele Price-Williams) (05/03/2019 01.58 PM)

Please can a response be provided for the Councillor

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (07/02/2019 02.30 PM)

Please update when the proposal has been implemented.

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (07/02/2019 02.30 PM)

Response sent to Councillor

Note By (Demi Mather) (07/02/2019 02.26 PM)

Response from Stuart Watson:

Dear Cllr Reid,

We carried out a speed survey in Colintrave on A886 within the 30mph speed restriction, the average speed returned was 33-34mph. Following these results, the Local Traffic and Development Officer has proposed an initial traffic management design which he has shared with our colleagues in Police Scotland and we are awaiting a response advising that they are accepting of the proposals. Due to the route being an A class road, vertical displacement (for example speed humps) traffic management measures would not be appropriate, the Local Officer has proposed using additional signs, replacing existing repeater signs with larger signs, using road markings to produce a gateway effect on the approach and installing "Police speed check ahead" signs on the Northern approach.

We will update once we implement the proposal.

Regards,

Stuart Watson

Note By (Alan Reid) (24/01/2019 04.24 PM)

Community Council say that the 30mph limit in Colintrave is often exceeded. They ask for a flashing 30mph sign.

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Forwarded By: Niamh Middleton - Niamh.Middleton@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Subject

Data from traffic speed surveys

Incident Reference # 200504-000084

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**
Assigned: No Value
Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.29 PM
Date Last Updated: 29/07/2020 11.21 AM
Status: Updated by Service Controllers

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (29/07/2020 11.21 AM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

This is something we have been looking at for some time now, our preference would be to create hot maps available to the public online that would allow the public to view speed and traffic count data. However, the hot maps is a more complicated option and requires a resource input that isn't available at the moment. As a short to medium term fix, we are considering putting the data online in spreadsheet format which will allow the public to view information if they wish to do so.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Helen MacLeod) (28/07/2020 12.39 PM)

Response sent to Cllr. If a response could be provided within the next 2 weeks that would be much appreciated.

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (28/07/2020 12.05 PM)

Dear Cllr Reid,

I have requested an update from the service today. The query was asked during the lockdown phase of the Coronavirus where we were only dealing with emergency and urgent cases, a response will be provided as soon as possible, I apologise for the delay however as things are returning to a more normal level, we will be in a better

position for provision of non-urgent responses.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Response By E-mail (Alan Reid) (27/07/2020 03.16 PM)

Can I please have a reply?

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (24/06/2020 08.10 PM)

Please provide an update

Note By (Katie McKenzie) (27/05/2020 11.57 AM)

Please provide an update

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.29 PM)

The Forum asks if the data from traffic speed surveys could be posted on the Council website so that the public can see the outcome of surveys.;

Forwarded By: Niamh Middleton -
Niamh.Middleton@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Subject

Policy on car park use

Incident Reference # 200504-000086

Member with Interest: **Alan Reid**
Assigned: No Value
Date Created: 04/05/2020 02.31 PM
Date Last Updated: 26/05/2020 02.04 PM
Status: Response Added

Note By (Road and Infrastructure Services) (26/05/2020 02.04 PM)

Dear Councillor Reid,

Broadly, the Parking Policy Framework provides detail on what is allowed and how that's managed, The Policy doesn't cover every eventuality however.

Very briefly, the Policy does allow events to take place within a Council car park. If the car park is a free car park or a pay & display car park and the event organiser is willing pay the full potential income for the period they wish to hold the event, then the approval is delegated to the Executive Director or HoS in consultation with Chair & Vice Chair of the Area Committee. If it's a pay & display car park and the organiser wishes for the charge to be reduced or waived then this request would be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee or full Council for approval.

Notwithstanding the above, consideration must also be given to the wider impact of the event; for example the wider impact of displaced vehicles within a town due to the closure of a car park. Consideration must also be given to the impact of a closure on our warden resource. Where the event is a commercial one, the Council may wish to charge for occupation of a car park even where the car park is not pay & display.

Where an event is permitted, the normal process of should be followed, including completion of an Event Pack (which includes Public Liability Insurance etc.). There may also be a requirement for the organiser to apply for other licences, e.g. entertainment/trading/alcohol.

Kind Regards,

Amy Bruce

Note By (Alan Reid) (04/05/2020 02.31 PM)

The Forum asks what the Council's policy is regarding the use of council car parks for events.

