

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid

Customer Services
Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



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15 August 2016

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **CAMPBELTOWN FERRY COMMITTEE** will be held in the **CONFERENCE ROOM, AQUALIBRIUM, CAMPBELTOWN** on **TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2016** at **11:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director of Customer Services

BUSINESS

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
- 2. MINUTE OF CAMPBELTOWN FERRY SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2016** (Pages 1 - 4)
- 3. CONSULTATION RESPONSE SENT TO CALMAC** (Pages 5 - 6)
- 4. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**
Update by Area Committee Manager
- 5. FUTURE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
Discussion facilitated by Committee
- 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Campbeltown Ferry Committee

Councillor Anne Horn (Chair) Councillor John Armour (Councillor)

Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager

Contact: Lynsey Innis, Senior Area Committee Assistant; Tel: 01546 604338

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MINUTES of MEETING of CAMPBELTOWN FERRY COMMITTEE held in the CONFERENCE ROOM, AQUALIBRIUM, KINLOCH GREEN, CAMPBELTOWN on WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2016

Present: Councillor John Armour (Chair)
Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Simon Richmond, Area Operations Manager, Calmac
Angela Herd, Calmac
Mairi Paterson, Explore Campbeltown
Kevin Lewis, Machrihanish Dunes

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Anne Horn and Ranald Watson of Springbank Distillers.

Having noted that the Chair, Councillor Horn had sent her apologies the Committee agreed that Councillor John Armour assume the role of Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. MINUTE OF THE CAMPBELTOWN FERRY SUB-GROUP MEETING HELD ON 4 MAY 2016

The Minute of the Campbeltown Ferry Sub-group held on 4 May 2016 was approved as a true record.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF GROUP

The Area Committee Manager thanked members of the Committee for their assistance in identifying appropriate representatives from the groupings on the membership lists. She advised that a letter had been prepared for issue to the individuals identified by the Committee. She advised that she would provide an update on the responses at the next meeting of the group. Discussion took place in respect of identifying someone for the role of independent traveller, with the Area Operations Manager of Calmac outlining the selection process followed by the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee and stressed the importance of a broad cross section membership list. The Area Committee Manager agreed to draft a notice which would be displayed in the Harbour office seeking nominations for this role. Further discussion took place in respect of the membership roles that the current members of the Committee already occupy; the intimation by Colin Craig of West Coast Motors to accept the role of Public Transport Operator on the membership list and the possibility of establishing a contact from the farming sector. Councillor Armour agreed to make contact with the NFU asking them to provide a contact for an appropriate representative to be added to the membership list.

Outcome:

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the progress to date on the Membership of the group; and
2. Requested that the Area Committee Manager provide an update at the next meeting, outlining the responses to the letter sent to individuals identified by the Committee.

4. FUTURE TIMETABLING

The Area Operations Manager of Calmac outlined the consultation process in relation to timetabling. He advised that the winter timetables had now been sent to Transport Scotland for approval and he hoped to begin the process of consulting on the Summer 2017 timetable at the end of June, beginning of July. He advised that he would write to the Chair of the Committee indicating the start of the consultation process and ask for any representations. Mr Richmond outlined the timescales of the process and advised that it was anticipated that the Summer 2017 timetable would be finalised by December 2016.

Discussion took place in respect of vessel capacity and the vessel replacement strategy with Mr Richmond confirming that there was little scope for spare vessel provision at this stage. He advised that new vessels may cascade capacity across the network. Councillor Armour suggested that one of the most effective changes to the service would be to get an in and out service on a Saturday, allowing day trips for visitors to the area. Mr Richmond agreed to take this suggestion away as a starting point. Further discussion took place in respect of having a special service to leave from Campbeltown on a Monday following a large weekend event such as the Mull of Kintyre Runs or the Music Festival. Mr Richmond advised that it would be unlikely that they could provide a service on the Monday following this year's Music Festival in August, but he would look into the possibility and confirm to the Committee. Mr Richmond suggested that when the Committee were putting together their response to the consultation it would be beneficial to have a diary of planned events, and request that a Monday service be provided at these times. He explained that the more notice given would allow greater consideration of the request.

Outcome:

The Committee agreed to note the information provided by the Area Operations Manager, Calmac.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Armour spoke of the difficulties faced since the start of this year's service. He advised that members of the community were disheartened that the service to Campbeltown had been cancelled due to technical difficulties, but had still sailed to Brodick. Mr Richmond advised that he had been very conscious of the difficulties, and outlined the difficulties encountered by the defective propulsion system. He advised that there had been an operational fix on the system but that a full repair would require to be carried out during dry docking, in October. Mr Richmond further advised that the other issues which had prohibited the service to Campbeltown was the wind direction and the boat's hours of rest. Councillor Armour enquired as to the possibility of the second Isle of Arran vessel coming to Campbeltown when there were difficulties. Mr Richmond advised that all incidents are reviewed on an individual basis and the weather, capacity of the vessel and the boats hours of rest would be taken into consideration. He advised that there was no bias as to how Calmac operate.

Further discussion took place in respect of the difficulties faced by travellers when sailings are cancelled. Ms Herd advised that arrangements are put in place for transporting passengers by road when technical difficulties arise, however there are no alternative provisions in incidents of poor weather.

Mairi Paterson of Explore Campbeltown spoke of the need to get information into the public domain when there were cancellations. Ms Herd advised that it is possible to subscribe to the Calmac website and receive information on services. Ms Herd agreed to email Ms Paterson in the event of cancellations of the service, who in turn would put a notification on public media sites to notify possible travellers.

Further discussion took place in respect of the figures for the year so far, with Mr Richmond handing out a reliability and punctuality report. The Committee agreed that the figures were encouraging despite the number of cancellations experienced in the first weeks of the season.

The Chair thanked both Mr Richmond and Ms Herd for the information provided.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The group agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 10 August 2016, time and venue to be confirmed.



**CalMac Ferries Ltd
Timetable Feedback
Summer 2017**

First Name: Graeme Surname: Forrester
 Organisation: Campbeltown Ferry Committee E-Mail Address:
 Graeme.forrester@argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Designation: Clerk Telephone No: 01546 604197

Feedback on Timetable

Q1. Route Ardrossan - Campbeltown

Q2. Are you satisfied with the content of last year's timetable?

- Yes, please proceed on this basis
 No, I'd like you to consider some changes

Changes to be considered

This section is only to be completed if you answered "No" to Q2.

1. Inclusion of Saturday afternoon or evening sailing from Ardrossan to Campbeltown then returning to Ardrossan;
2. Saturday morning sailing from Campbeltown to Ardrossan to be direct;
3. Guaranteed space for vehicles from Campbeltown on sailings calling at Brodick;
4. Additional sailings on specific dates outside of existing standard timetable;
5. Extension of season to include Easter and October holiday periods.

Q3. Please outline your request in more detail with specific and include clear justification

Examples: Amend 1300 sailing every Monday and Friday to 1500 to enable better connectivity with train to Glasgow which departs Oban at 1530;

1. A sailing from Ardrossan to Campbeltown then returning to Ardrossan on Saturday afternoons is proposed for consideration. Such a sailing could usefully mirror the Sunday afternoon sailing from Ardrossan to Campbeltown returning to Ardrossan. Such a sailing would benefit the timetable by enabling passengers to reach Campbeltown on a Saturday and enabling residents or visitors to Campbeltown and Kintyre to leave Campbeltown on a Saturday at a time during the afternoon or evening. The current Saturday sailing from Campbeltown allows those wishing to use the ferry to leave Kintyre to leave only at 7am. This limits attractiveness of the ferry, particularly for visitors to the area. It is considered that the addition of a Saturday afternoon sailing into and out of Campbeltown will benefit greatly the timetable, without significant disruption to Ardrossan-Brodick traffic.
2. Consideration should be given to amending the timetable to provide for the Saturday morning sailing from Campbeltown to Ardrossan to sail directly, rather than calling at Brodick. This would enable to ferry to leave Campbeltown around 0800, which would be beneficial for residents and visitors, while retaining connectivity with onward travel at Ardrossan.
3. Consideration should be given to mechanisms to ensure availability of vehicle space for those travelling from Campbeltown to Ardrossan on ferries calling at Brodick. There is the possibility that bookings made for the Brodick to Ardrossan leg of the route, which is served by an additional vessel, prevent vehicle access for those travelling from Kintyre, which has a significantly lower frequency of sailings. This matter of concern within the last timetable would be lessened or removed by reduction or removal of sailings from Campbeltown to Ardrossan calling at Brodick.
4. Consideration should be given to the opportunities to supplement the timetable by adding sailings on specified dates annually to enable ferry-based access to significant events in Campbeltown and Kintyre. Additional sailings from Campbeltown to Ardrossan on Mondays falling after events including the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival (August) and the Mull of Kintyre Run (MOKRun)

(May) would greatly benefit access to these events, and an additional sailing into Campbeltown on the Wednesday at the beginning of the Malts Festival (May) would support access to this event. Additional sailings for specified events, suitably marketed, would benefit these events and the local economy and environment, without significant impact upon other service provision.

5. Consideration should be given to extending the season for sailings to Campbeltown to bring the timetable into line with other summer services. It is noted that summer timetables for other services, including the Ardrossan to Brodick summer service which runs from 25th March to 23rd October, include the Easter and October holiday periods within the summer service. An equivalent provision of service on the Campbeltown to Ardrossan route would greatly benefit the service the local and visitor populations, while also bringing this timetable into line with others across the service benefitting customer understanding.

Please send your completed form to future.planning@calmac.co.uk. All forms should be submitted **no later than 9am on Monday 25th July.**

Feedback submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

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

Thank you for taking the time to respond. We will be in touch if we require any further information.