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MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held in the TIMBER PIER BUILDING, DUNOON on FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: Councillor Alex McNaughton (Chair)
Lorna Elliott, Community Governance Manager
Iain MacInnes, Lochgoil Community Council
Cathy Morrison, South Cowal Community Council
Iain McNaughton, Sandbank Community Council
Graham Revill, Kilmun Community Council
Fulton McInnes, Hunters Quay Community Council
Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council
Simon Richmond, Caledonian MacBrayne
Scott Goodwill, Caledonian MacBrayne
Keith Murray, Transport Scotland
Martin Arnold, Community Transport Officer
Verina Litster, Scottish Fire and Rescue

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated by:

Gordon Ross, Western Ferries
Alan MacRaid, Interloch
Willie Lynch, Dunoon Community Council
Alistair McLundie, Western Ferries
Crawford John Richmond, Police Scotland

The Chair on behalf of the Cowal Transport Forum intimated that their thoughts are with the family of the young boy who tragically lost his life in Innellan this week.

2. MINUTES

The minute of the meeting of the Transport Forum 15 April 2016 was approved as a correct record subject to changes at Item 4. Ferries update to include:

- Passenger numbers are higher as compared to last year.
- Western Ferries currently has almost 100% reliability year to date.
- A planning application will be shortly submitted to replace the old berthing structure and linkspan at McInroy's Point.

3. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

Keith Murray, Transport Scotland provided the following update:

- BEAR Scotland has been instructed to erect pedestrian signage at Cairndow.
- Pedestrian signs will also be erected at the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar as well as two reflective bollards on the corner of the road to make drivers aware of the kerb.
- Since the last A83 Taskforce meeting approximately £2,000,000 has been spent on the A83 and includes: barrier repairs, resurfacing works, additional safety fencing works, hillside drainage and improved drainage at 6 locations.

- Strone Point works will start in November and are expected to last twenty weeks.
- Plans are in place to widen the section of the Old Military Road which runs through Forestry Commission land. This will make the road two way on this section and reduce travel time by approximately 5 minutes.
- Proposed maintenance works in the area include: seven sites identified for resurfacing work, safety fencing and signage and lining. The budget for 2017-18 is £3,500,000. It was noted that the A83 is the only route in Scotland to receive this level of funding.

Action

Transport Scotland to look at the programme of scrub clearance to see if the Cairndow road and section as drivers pull out from the A815 can be included.

4. FERRIES UPDATE

Argyll Ferries

Simon Richmond and Scott Goodwill from Argyll Ferries provided the Forum with the following update:

- The Clyde and Hebrides contract has been signed and will come in force on the 1st October 2016.
- With regards to the The Dunoon Gourock Passenger Route contract, the first stage pre-qualifying process is complete and the second release of the invitation to tender will be out week commencing 5th September 2016.
- It is expected that the new contract will run from the 29th of June 2017 for a period of twelve years.
- Passenger numbers for the summer months at Colintraive, Wemyss Bay and Portavadie are up on last year.
- The passenger numbers for the Gourock to Dunoon sailing has decreased by 4% on last year's figures.
- Cowal Games passenger numbers were down 1% overall but up 3% on the Saturday and Bute Games were up in number of cars but down in number of passengers.
- The Ferry users group meeting will be held in October.
- A conversation was held around Argyll Ferries procedures for dealing with intoxicated passengers and drink related incidents. Procedures will be reviewed.
- Simon Richmond informed the Group that Cmal had not received the letter submitted by the transport forum.

Actions

Senior Area Committee Assistant to forward Simon Richmond the original letter that was sent to Cmal and he will progress the matter.

Western Ferries Update

As Captain McLundie had been unable to attend the meeting at short notice due to operational reasons following increased ferry traffic due to an unplanned road closure diversion due to an accident, there was no update from Western Ferries.

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE

(a) Sligrachan Turning Area

The Community Transport Officer informed the Group that works on the Sligrachan turning circle has been completed, with only some work around installing reflective bollards still to be completed. This turning circle will be ready for use by the buses on Monday 5th September 2016.

(b) Car Parking in Bus Stops at Mustering Area - Dunoon Pier

The Community Transport Officer informed the Group that currently there is an issue with cars parking in the bus stops at the mustering area of Dunoon Pier and that they have contacted the legal department to write to the taxi companies.

It was noted that the issue was not just taxis but also cars using the area. The Forum held a discussion regarding whether this area was included in the parking review which is currently out to public consultation.

The Community Transport Officer also informed the Group that McGills were currently looking at a reduced fare for people using the Glasgow service for local journeys and he will report back to the forum when an update on this is available.

Action

1. Councillor McNaughton will raise this issue at the Bute and Cowal Business Day on the 6th September 2016.
2. Community Governance Manager to raise Item with roads department regarding clarification on what enforcement can be put in place and if the parking review will have any impact on this situation.

6. ROADS UPDATE

A representative from the Roads department was not present at the meeting, therefore no update was provided.

(a) Congestion at Hunters Quay

Fulton McInnes, Hunters Quay Community Council informed the Group that a meeting had taken place between the Community Council, Western Ferries and the Roads Department but an agreement could not be reached at the point. It was also noted that Police Scotland did not attend the meeting.

Actions

1. Senior Area Committee Assistant to request a copy of the minutes for the meeting from the Roads Department.
2. Police Scotland to be asked to attend the next meeting specifically to discuss this item.
3. Community Governance Manager to create and circulate to the Group a briefing which outlines the best ways to log a request for a

service with Argyll and Bute Council and to include contact number, website links and process.

(b) **Progress Update on Implementation of VMS Signs**

Iain MacInnes informed the Group that he had a site meeting with the Contracts Manager regarding signage but at this point was no further forward.

Action

Community Governance Manager to raise this item with the Roads department to clarify where VMS signs will be situation, when they will be in place and who will be responsible for updating them. The Group requested that this item be seen as urgent with a response being emailed to the Forum.

It was noted that the turning circle sits with the Roads Department and not Transport Scotland. This item was therefore moved to agenda item 6. (c) of this minute.

(c) **Turning Circle**

Iain MacInnes advised the meeting that unfortunately the implementation of the turning circle has not been successful due to several unresolved issues which included coaches and cars parking in it so the city link bus is unable to get in, people booking the bus but it doesn't stop for them and City Link have advised that due to lack of winter treatment they will not be using the turning circle from November 2016 until March 2017.

It was noted that an agreement was already in place for the area to be gritted by both BEAR Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council.

Actions

1. Community Transport Officer to raise with Roads department whether a traffic enforcement order can be put in place.
2. Community Governance Manager and Iain MacInnes to draft a letter expressing all the concerns raised at the meeting. This letter should then be sent to Elected Members, Highlands and Islands MSP's, the Scottish Transport Minister, Chief Executive of Transport Scotland, City Link and West Coast Motors.

7. SCOTTISH WATER UPDATE

A representative from Scottish Water was not present at the meeting, therefore no update was provided.

8. POLICE SCOTLAND

Sergeant Richmond from Police Scotland had retrospectively submitted apologies for the meeting therefore no update was provided.

9. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE

Action

Verina Litster on behalf of Scottish fire and Rescue requested that the Forum raise a congestion issue caused by parking on both sides of the road in Edward Street, Dunoon with the Roads department as this could impede on Scottish Fire and Rescue being able to get an appliance through that stretch of road.

10. AOCB

Keith Murray informed the Group that the A83 Taskforce meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th September.

Action

The Community Governance Manager will draft a letter expressing the Cowal Transport Forums concern over poor attendance at the meeting and reiterating the importance of attendance at the meeting and also ask for this message to be endorsed by the Council Leader.

This letter will be sent to Scottish Water, Argyll and Bute Councils Roads Department and Police Scotland.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Cowal Transport Forum will be held on Friday 9th December at 10am in the Timber Pier Building, Dunoon.

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