

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held in the QUEEN'S HALL,
DUNOON
on WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Rowan Simpson (Chair)

Jeff McCormick, West Coast Motors
Nigel Brooks, LL & TNP
Maureen Spy, Interloch Transport
Albert Baker, Kilmun Community Council
Fulton McInnes, Hunters Quay Community Council
Iain MacNaughton, Sandbank Community Council
Archie Reid, Strachur Community Council
Anne Gabriel, Dunoon Community Council
David Sumsion, Cairndow Community Council
George Lasey.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

Councillor A McNaughton
Shirley MacLeod, Area Manager, Customer Services
Gordon Ross, Western Ferries
Leslie Cuthbertson, Lochgoil Community Council

With the Chair submitting his apologies the Group agreed that Rowan Simpson would be Chair for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29TH JUNE 2010

The minutes of the meeting of 29th June 2010 were approved as a correct record.

The Group agreed to note that Mr Reid had not suggested the cancellation of the earlier Carrick Castle Bus as stated in point c on page 2 of the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) STRACHUR BUS TIE IN WITH MCGILLS

Rowan Simpson advised that the Strachur bus could not wait at the Dunoon pier for McGills bus because it was a connecting bus for the Campbeltown to Glasgow route. Rowan further advised that there may be extra Campbeltown to Glasgow buses put into service and the timetable of the Strachur bus might be able to be changed at this point.

(b) STRACHUR BUS FOR COWAL GAMES

Mr Reid advised that West Coast Motors did provide a bus to Strachur after the fireworks on Cowal Games Saturday and he hopes this will continue next year.

(c) BUS STOP AT TOP OF REST AND BE THANKFUL

Rowan Simpson circulated a letter she had sent to Transport Scotland regarding the request for an area where the bus could pull off the road at the top of the Rest and Be Thankful. Rowan advised the Group of Transport Scotland's reply and said that planning permission for this area may be required from the National Park. Mr Reid said that he had received information from the Forestry Commission regarding work they were planning for this area and it was agreed Rowan would investigate this matter.

(d) MISSION STATEMENT

The Group discussed the Mission Statement and agreed to include the composition of the Group i.e. representatives from Service Providers, Agencies and Community Groups.

4. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Mr Sumsion spoke on the transportation of Children from the Cairndow area to and from School, advising that on the journey to school the bus goes to Leanach and back before going into Dunoon, this adds at least 15 minutes onto the journey. On the return journey the bus leaves the school to pick up passengers at Dunoon Pier before departing to Cairndow this also adding time onto the children's journey. Mr Reid explained that the reason the bus goes to the school first was because previously it picked up passengers in Dunoon and then left school children because it was full.

The Group agreed Rowan would speak to Douglas Blades to see if the journey in the morning to Leanach could be stopped, letting the bus leave later from Cairndow, and discuss with West Coast Motors if the bus could only pick up a certain amount of people at Dunoon Pier before going to the school to collect the children before going straight up to Cairndow. Mr McCormick agreed to take two points of contact in case there were any problems with the buses.

Mr Baker advised that a number of bus stops are situated on grass areas that are becoming very muddy and asked that some paving slabs could be put down in these areas to stop people from getting dirty/wet. Rowan said she would speak to Douglas Blades about this.

Ian McNaughton spoke on the problem Mr Lasey was having with the McGills bus leaving from Gourrock to Inverclyde Hospital at twenty past the hour. Mr Lasey advised that the bus has left early on some occasions and asked if the bus could leave at 23 minutes past the hour to allow people to disembark from the ferry and walk to the bus stop. It was

agreed that Rowan would write to McGills. Anne Gabriel advised there was also a problem with the return bus that doesn't get you to the ferry until 25 past in which case you have missed the ferry.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group agreed to have the next meeting on Wednesday 23rd February at 10.30am, venue to be agreed.

