

**MINUTES of MEETING of COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
on TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2024**

Present: Councillor Daniel Hampsey (Chair)
Councillor William Sinclair

4. POLICE SCOTLAND

Inspector Bart Simonis gave a brief update on behalf of Police Scotland, advising that road priorities are being up scaled with officers receiving more training on hand held speeding monitors. Inspector Simonis advised that the Service are continuing to respond to concerns raised by the local community councils on the Cowal Peninsula and provided updates on road traffic and preventative road safety measures and pop up events, confirming that the next event is scheduled to take place in Lochgilphead Fire Station on 28th June.

Gordon Ross asked Inspector Simonis to confirm if the A83 cameras had been reinstalled. Inspector Simonis confirmed that he would investigate and confirm with Mr Ross at the conclusion of the meeting.

Kirstie Reid, Strachur Community Council, raised the issue of adults cycling on the pavements in Dunoon Town Centre which she felt was of a serious concern to pedestrians. Inspector Simonis agreed to highlight that this was not acceptable on social media platforms and contact the Dunoon Advertiser to reinforce this message.

explore what can be done to discourage cyclists from using footways.

Councillor Sinclair raised concerns over the motor bike season starting again, and that they push on up to the front of queuing traffic when stopped at lights.

Inspector Simonis advised that motor cyclists are the highest risk factors on the roads and there will be a safety event taking place at Inveraray specifically for motor cyclists.

5. FERRIES UPDATE

(a) Dunoon Community Council - Impact of Service Changes

David Clough, Dunoon Community Council stated that the ScotRail change in timetable from 1st

regarding recent changes to timetables.

(Reference: Update by Dunoon Community Council, submitted)

(b) **Opportunity for verbal updates by Cowal Transport Forum Members**
Western Ferries

Gordon Ross highlighted that Western Ferries were working well, with additional sailings being put on for the weekend of the Argyll Rally which is being held in Dunoon and the surrounding area.

Mr Ross stated that there was a recent question and answer session organised by the Scottish Government on methodology of island connectivity, he asked that as Argyll and Bute Council were listed as Stakeholders, who from the Council was the representative and can we have feedback on this session?

No-one within the Forum was aware of the consultation, Mr Ross advised that he would send the Committee Manager the link by email.

Outcome

The Forum noted the update from Western Ferries.

6. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

(a) **Kilmun Community Council bus service survey**

Kerris Bone of Kilmun Community Council highlighted their disappointment regarding the lack of a late night bus service to the locality and that a Community Council supported consultation exercise had demonstrated there was a clear demand for it. Miss Bone advised that the reintroduction of such a service would make a big difference to the people living in rural areas and asked what West Coast Motors was going to do about it?

Jeff McCormick of West Coast Motors (WCM) advised that he was not aware of any feedback, but would be willing to revisit the timetable with the Council and seek to make improvements where possible.

Councillor Sinclair supported Kilmun Community Council position and encouraged West Coast Motors to explore options for introducing a late night bus.

Kirstie Reid, Strachur Community Council stated that Kerris had done some good work with the consultation but that it had been undermined by ScotRail changing their timetable. Kirstie also advised that she had received an email from Mr Arnold, Argyll and Bute Council, explaining that the bus service was cut due to the number of users being down 38%. On studying this further she stated that the bus route was cut by 50%. She also requested that WCM consider reinstating the 5.50pm bus service and

the Saturday morning service, adding that not having these services were

The Committee Manager advised that there was no-one in attendance from the Roads Department and would be happy to take away any questions.

Kirstie Reid advised that the Strachur Community Council had raised the issue of Timber did not fit the width of the road and as a consequence the verges are becoming unstable. Miss Reid also advised that there is also a flood sign which has been at the side of the road for over a year and is now hidden by the long grass.

Simon Stuart of the Timber Transport Group advised that agricultural vehicles are also guilty of this and it is important that the damage is attributed to the right party and that local knowledge is helpful in this regard. Mr Stuart advised that he would contact the Councils Roads Department on his return to work to get an update on timber related transport damage to verges.

Outcome

The Committee Manager to

8. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

Apologies had been received from Ian Woodcock but he had sent a written update, which was read out by the Committee Manager, as follows:-

A brief report as regards to A83 & R&BT etc. which affects your local;

1. A83 Works completed through May/June 2024 include resurfacing between Cossack to Colchester as well as refurbished street lighting within Tarbert & temporary barrier along with other remedial works at Glen Kinglas which provides further protection from landslide at this location.
2. Schemes to commence include new junction signage at Cairndow as well as the annual road safety investigations to be carried out over the next 3 months.
3. Rest and be Thankful, we have many schemes planned for this location with a view to mitigate closures due to landslides as well as maintain safety of the travelling public. I will summarise when I get full sight of the approved works, however, schemes include new bunds/barriers, ongoing assessments/monitoring, drainage & culvert works as well as new fence install at various locations

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance at the meeting and the Forum noted that the Committee Manager would circulate a calendar invite for a meeting, week commencing 16 September 2024.