

# Cumrae Ferry Users Group

Meeting Date / P Wed 3rd Aug @ Field Studies Centre 1730

Attendees
Angus Campbell (CFU commuter & Calmac Community Board); Carol Ann Baxter (CalMac Largs Port Manager); Tommy Gore (Calmac Operations Manager); Cllr Ian Murdoch; Duncan Fraser (CCC); Iain Morrison (Millport Motors); Kari Lundie (CFU Chair); Alex Morton (Business Rep); Lorraine Fraser (Cumrae Forum); John Riggins (NHS); Cllr Todd Ferguson
Apologies
Cllr Tom Marshall; Gail Murphy (Business rep); Chris Sutherland (Commuter); John McCubbin (Age concern)
Welcome
Approval of previous minutes
Proposed by: John Riggins Seconded by: Duncan Fraser

Issue / Agenda Item	Status	Action / Comment
CMAL - Cumrae Slipway redevelopment	Open	<p>CMAL had previously presented options for the redevelopment of the Cumrae Slip way ). It was confirmed that no other sites had been considered in these plans as CMAL own the current slipway and only like for like has been considered. Questions/Suggestions from the group as follows, which CMAL will respond to in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extending the length of the slipway to help alleviate tidal disruption</li> <li>- Sea defences to make slipway more weather resilient and reduce disruption</li> <li>- Investigation of other sites ( e.g. White bay) offering more shelter and reducing disruption</li> <li>- Could temporary slip way be kept as a back up, alternative option during certain weather conditions</li> </ul> <p><b>Action : CMAL to develop an alternative plan to improve weather resilience than a "like for like" replacement. Given these plans are to provide a slipway for the next 60yrs, the community do not believe that is appropriate to continue with a design that doesn't improve weather resilience.</b></p> <p><b>Action : CMAL to consult Calmac to ensure that the limiting weather features for the route are properly considered, with input from the Marine Staff, to ensure that the designs for replacement vessels and slipways that improve weather resilience are in place to improve on the current level of weather disruption</b></p> <p>Cost of redevelopment advised as circa £4.5m . Current timescale for temporary slipway Aug 2023 subject to approvals, funding etc. It was also suggested given the flood defence project would require a temp slipway that perhaps CMAL could liaise with the relevant teams.</p> <p>Update 03/08 - CMAL have rejected CFU concerns and advised a like for like approach in the new slipway.  <b>Action - CFU to set up meeting with CMAL to discuss further</b></p>
New Cumrae Ferry to Replace the Loch Riddon.	Open	<p>Tommy Gore confirmed the Loch Riddon replacement was top of the priority list and discussions ongoing with regards to enhancements in design to ensure better resilience</p> <p><b>Action : Tommy Gore to continue providing updates</b></p>
Contingency Plans for breakdowns	Overdue	<p>breakdowns increasingly challenging for the community, leaving many people stranded on the wrong side; workers on the island unable to leave, and islanderson the mainland unable to get home.</p> <p><b>Action : Calmac to consider the Colintraive Ferry as an option to be used as the contingency vessel, as it is nearer, and larger capacity than the Tarbert to Lochranza ferry, and the main Bute Service would be unaffected.</b></p> <p>Update 16/05 - Calmac confirmed the Colintraive vessel would require 4-6 hrs work in order to make the vessel compatible with the Cumrae route.</p> <p><b>Action : Calmac to consider options for a fall-back passenger only contingency if "all else fails" to get people over and back</b></p> <p>Update 16/05 - Pax only options being investigated, Elke at FSC to send Calmac pier specs.</p> <p><b>Action : Calmac to confirm the number of their staff normally based at Largs who are inducted / able to operate across the 3 vessels typically at Largs for flexible crewing options (No of people who can operate on Loch Shira, Loch Riddon, Catriona) ?</b></p> <p><b>Action : Calmac to also advise on their plans to improve their inductions to improve flexibility across the vessels normally operating from Largs</b></p> <p>Update 16/05 - Calmac confirmed crew inducted onto Riddon, however insufficient crew inducted on the Cartiona both due to staff shortages and refusal to travel due to contractual/union issues. Surprise from the community contracts are being issued with no provision for adhoc training elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Calmac to address contractual issues and find a suitable solution for all to have crew inducted on the Catriona to allow maximum flexibility in the event of failure.</b></p> <p>Update 03/08 - Calmac confirmed that plans were in place at the end of the summer season to extend their seasonal staff to enable crew rotation for the full time staff for inductions to ensure that the Largs crews could operate across the Loch Shir + Loch Riddon class and the Hybrid vessels to improve crew flexibility across the small ferry fleet, however there remains question on the engineers for the Catriona (being a hybrid vessel).</p> <p><b>Action - Calmac to confirm with crewing/engineers that engineers on the Riddon/Shira can operate on the Catriona if required in order to continue a lifeline service.</b></p>
Ar Turas new ticketing system	Open	<p>Calmac advised that Ar Turas was still planned for Go live Oct 22. CFU raised significant concerns surrounding the lack of visibility of the community engagement plans for an implementations with only 3 months to go.... with no publicity or comms plans visible to the ferry committee, or to the community</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of a timeline for briefing and engaging the community on the changes that Ar turas will bring</li> <li>2. Lack of visibility of plans to manage "Day 1" to manage the 1000+ island resident who will require a return ticket to leave the island post implementation</li> </ol> <p><b>Action: Calmac to provide timeline of events working back from Day 1 go live.</b></p>
3rd vessel availability for Summer 22 TT	Noted	<p>Calmac confirmed 3rd vessel (Loch Linnhe) would be made available Country Music weekend to work alongside the Loch Riddon. Calmac have confirmed additional sailing of the Loch Shira up to 2230hrs</p> <p>A two vessel service was planned Fri- Mon Sept weekend with additional sailings on Saturday night of 2100 and 2130 from Cumrae for Loch Shira based on the usual "Boarding pass" requirements that have operated for a number of years.</p> <p>The multivessel expectations above are on the proviso no other breakdowns occur elsewhere in the network resulting in the vessel having to be diverted.</p>
Transport Minister Meeting	Open	<p>No update on the season ticket costings requested at the meeting with TM on 1st June</p> <p><b>Action: Calmac to confirm costings have been submitted to TS and subsequent outcome</b></p>

Season Tickets / Carnet of 200 or 300 Tickets	New	<p><b>Action : Calmac to consider the option of a 200-400 ticket carnet that could be used to replace the season ticket if transport Scotland were to agree to it</b></p> <p><b>Calmac confirmed that season tickets would still be available for the monthly passes until Arturas is implemented.</b></p> <p><b>Update 03/08 - No update on the season ticket costings requested at the meeting with TM on 1st June</b></p> <p><b>Action: Calmac to confirm costings have been submitted to TS and subsequent outcome</b></p>
New Calmac Resilience Post	New	<p>Calmac confirmed Tommy Gore had been appointed as Calmac Network Resilience Manager. Don McKillop will be replacing Tommy as Area Operations Manager in the next month or so.</p>
Ar Turas - Multi Journey Concession Tickets	New	<p>Concession tickets: Cumbrae Forum again requesting possibility of concession card holders being able to purchase multiple tickets. Calmac advised they were actively working with SPT through the Ar Tuas new ticketing project.</p> <p>Calmac confirmed that SPT are willing to make changes to align with the new Ar Tuas ticketing system however SPT wanted to see process in action on single journeys prior to approving multi journey ticketing (this process involves ticket collectors checking passes on boarding the vessel to prevent fraud.</p> <p><b>Action : Calmac to provide an update of progress from the Ar Turas team on their discussions with SPT, and the prospective process that would have to be followed by concession card holders</b></p>
AOB	New	<p>Question over priority for teachers. Request raised to allow teachers on as priority on the 8am sailing to ensure school opening. Calmac confirmed that teachers now arrive via separate cars since COVID and this appears to have continued. They had been offered priority if they were willing to car share, however declined.</p> <p><b>Action: CFU to take back to School and advise of offer again, however priority will not be given for teachers travelling in individual cars.</b></p>
Date of next meeting	Noted	TBC