

# LOCHABER TRANSPORT FORUM

## Minutes of Executive Meeting held

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – 10.00, the Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William

**Present** - Brian Murphy

Benny MacDonald

Arthur Cowie

Mike Cooper

John Barnes

Tony Dobson

Apologies - Allan Henderson

Flora McKee

- **Minutes of last meeting** held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were approved by the Board.

- **Matters Arising**

Brian & John tried phoning HC to report the issue with the stile opposite the shopping area at Aldi. They weren't able to speak to anyone.

Arthur received further correspondence on the other issues raised. The barrier and pavement problems are being dealt with by different staff at Transport Scotland.

The bus timetables in Mallaig still have to be altered as they still say the Royal Bank of Scotland. All signs have been removed from the building so quite confusing for visitors. Mike is dealing with is.

Under Development Worker's Report, Benny received a reply to enquiries about ScotRail's Workshop into the use of 153 carriages. There will be a further meeting soon. He was advised there are a number of groups with similar interests to the Forum and they could represent the Forum's views.

Under Development Worker's Report, Benny didn't write to Transport Scotland regarding the West Highland Line Review to ask for it to be more open and involving communities. There had been an opportunity to feedback shortly after the first meeting but there was a time limit. The issues had been raised at the initial meeting and should be raised again on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Under Correspondence, Benny enquired with Highland Council about a map to show long stay parking areas following requests he had received. There has been no reply and Mike offered to provide another contact.

- **Development Worker's Report**

Benny went through his report.

- **Correspondence**

Additional Correspondence received. There are no low kerbs on one side near the new roundabout leading to the Aluminium Factory and the retail centre at Marks & Spencer's. Arthur said the Lochaber Disability Access Panel are aware of this.

Benny has had further reports of the new advertising posters on some bus shelters restricting views of oncoming buses. Mike has looked into this and was assured the top half of posters are translucent to allow for this.

There were issues reported on the standard of the waiting room and toilets at Corrour Rail Station. John – it's difficult for these to be managed as there are no staff on the station. Toilets are available in The Station Inn near by but this is closed in winter. Arthur mentioned the Small Projects Scheme operated by Transport Scotland as possible funding.

- **New bus Contracts**

Mike gave an update. There will be changes to the 44 service. It was agreed at a Council Members meeting to put the current service from Fort William at 20.00 later as it had previously been. Also the early bus will now leave Kinlochleven at 07.30 rather than 07.40.

Shiel Buses will operate the evening Upper Achintore/Corpach route commercially.

Further details will be discussed at the Bus User's Group meeting to follow.

- **August meeting with Kate Forbes, MSP**

Arthur said SATA and others are working on a full debate in the Scottish Parliament to change legislation on accessible buses/coaches.

- **West Highland Community Rail Partnership**

Benny has worked on the expenditure and budgets ahead of the AGM to be held the Community Centre, Mallaig on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Several of the Committee will be attending the ACoRP Community Rail Awards in Glasgow on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The play, Brief Encounters, produced by the CRP has been short listed for a community award.

- **AOCB**

SATA are holding their AGM on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and Arthur will continue to be Chairperson. They have been very active in the Highland area with more members covering all modes of transport.

The Fort William Strategic Transport Study has been completed by AECOM. The next step is a joint letter from the local partners to the Transport Minister to move forward to the next stage.

- **Date of next meetings**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Exec Meeting, AGM and Open Forum Meeting

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Exec Meeting and Bus User's Group Meeting

The venue for both dates is the Duncansburgh Church Hall.

**From Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Minutes of last meeting** held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved by the Board.