

LOCHABER TRANSPORT FORUM

Minutes of Executive Meeting held

Tuesday 14th May 2019 – 10.00, the Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William

Present - Brian Murphy
Benny MacDonald
John Barnes
Arthur Cowie
Tony Dobson
David Summers

Apologies - Allan Henderson
Flora McKee

- **Minutes of last meeting** held on 26th March 2019 were approved by the Committee.

- **Matters Arising**

Under Matters Arising, Arthur explained a walk he did around the town centre with Nick Jones relating to the 125th anniversary of the West Highland Line. The walk looked at areas of the original rail line, some which still remain after many changes.

Under Development Worker's Report, there was discussion on the response from ScotRail to the issues raised at Forum Meetings regarding the refurbishment of 156 carriages. Arthur has reported his concerns regularly.

- **Development Worker's Report**

Benny gave his report with the following additions. There was a reply from West Coast Motors regarding the 918 summer timetables. They have adjusted some of the timetable a little but there are no extra services. They have given assurances there will be a duplicate service for the schools during busy periods to remove the delays reported last year.

David has looked into the service with ideas on redesigning it. There may be a market for connecting with trains for travel around Oban, Fort William, Crianlarich and back to Oban. The October to May 918 service is contracted.

Brian – there must be sufficient demand for more public transport between the two towns. Do HITRANS have funding?

David gave feedback on the Community Transport Gathering they held in Inverness recently which looked at new grant funding from April 2020. It was worthwhile with a good turnout. They are still working on budgets and will not take it to the Council Committee meeting in August. There was discussion on the budget which remains the same as previous years.

There was discussion on bus timetables. David has been checking stops when in Lochaber. Benny reported on efforts by HITRANS to update all Citylink timetables along the route from Glencoe north.

Benny & Arthur have both reported some stops still have names which are out of date with banks and police station, etc. moving.

Arthur also reported websites which show out of date information.

- **Correspondence**

There was no further correspondence.

- **Forum Meeting to follow**

Benny gave details of the meeting to follow. Scott Prentice, Abellio, will be arriving on the midday train so best to have rail later on the agenda.

- **West Highland Community Rail Partnership**

There will be a full report during the meeting to follow.

Benny attended the opening day for the newly refurbished Glenfinnan Viaduct Trail.

Arthur reported there are discussions continuing on the planned work for the new carpark in Glenfinnan and the 40mph speed limit will be extended soon.

- **AOCB**

Benny asked about the last meeting of the Bus User's Group in March. We will need to finalise the minutes soon but don't have time today. It was agreed to do this at the next meeting.

There was discussion on a coach link from Fort William to Aviemore. David said this came up in the West Highland Line Review as a link for the Highland Main Line going south.

- **Date of next meetings**

There will be an Executive Committee Meetings at 10.00 on **Tuesday 25th June in the Duncansburgh Church Hall.**

Meeting from 6th August 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May were approved by the Committee.