

Tiree Community Development Trust

Tiree Transport Forum Meeting



Date	24 th October 2018
Time	11.00am
Venue	Trust Office, Crossapol
Present	Tiree Transport Forum Members: Susan Lamont, Stewart MacLennan, Angus John MacKechnie, Hannah MacKechnie, Andy Hayes, John MacCaskill Staff: Andy Wright, Shari MacKinnon Guests: Michael Bratcher – Transport Scotland, Robert Trythall- Tiree Community Council, Ian Gillies- Tiree Community Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

- The chair welcomed all present, apologies were received from Catriona MacLennan, Alastair MacInnes and Isabella MacKinnon.

2. Actions from Last Meeting

- The outstanding actions from the previous meeting are highlighted in the table below. Fig.1
- It was noted that CMAL will be attending a meeting with representatives from the Tiree Transport Forum on Monday 29th October to discuss the Pierhead, carpark area and proposed works to the linkspan.
- It was noted that improvements to mobility access for gates 1-3 at Glasgow Airport are hard to achieve, due to the age of the airport, the only mitigation of the issue is to provide wheelchairs to passengers with reduced mobility. It was noted that Loganair have submitted a proposal to the Scottish Government to install a lift at Gate 1.
- It was noted that the names of the new planes have been agreed but will not be shown until the aircrafts have been repainted. There is no estimated timescale for this at present.
- It was agreed to circulate the minutes from the October meeting with CalMac. **JMC to action.**
- It was agreed that after meetings the minutes would be produced by TCDT within 2 weeks and circulated round the forum for comments/amendments and a draft will be publicised by Tiree Community Council on the website within 1 week.
- There being no other matters arising the minutes of the February Meeting were approved.***

3. Air Transport

- Michael Bratcher (MB)** from Transport Scotland was welcomed to the meeting.
- It was noted that the pre-tender process is slightly behind schedule, with tender now planned to go out to industry in January 2019, closed in March with the new PSO contract commencing in October 2019 when the current contract ends.
- It was commented that the double daily flights have worked well and the overall passenger numbers for the year have increased. The new contract will be generally based on the current one.
- The interchangeable 'Banked' flights system during Summer/Winter are also proposed in the new specification.
- Transport Scotland are offered two Sunday flights in Summer, it was suggested that an optimum timescale for these additional flights would be from the beginning of June to the beginning of September.
- It was noted that there are 18 banked flights in the contract draft, these will be held by Tiree Transport Forum with the flight request being sent directly to Loganair.
- It was also noted that Good Friday and Easter Monday are a particularly busy time and suggested that these be treated as normal days. It was further suggested that Hogmanay and Christmas Eve have normal service and the 25th, 26th December and the 1st January, do not require any service.
- It was clarified that it is stated in the new PSO that mail, parcel freight and paper delivery should not have an impact on the passenger service. It was agreed to revise the wording for the new Tender.
- It was expressed that timetable variations and operational issues including cancellations should be split equally with other routes and organised well in advance where possible.
- Confirmation was given that there is no Government Tax on PSO routes and there are no plans for this to be implemented in the future, if this tax were to be introduced there is a possibility that Transport Scotland could take a decision to subsidise it.
- It was noted that the PSO cannot include a minimum pricing, only a maximum.
- A proposal was made that Standby Seats could be investigated. An NHS trial is currently happening with Barra whereby two seats/day are reserved and released for general sale if not used one week before the flight is scheduled. It was suggested that this model would not work on Tiree.
- Awareness of the service is still being raised via promotions and advertising campaigns. It was suggested that TMF time would be ideal for a promotion as flights leaving the island are generally empty, shopping trips etc. could be an option. Transport Scotland expressed that the airline has the final say on what promotions can be offered, however Transport Scotland can assess and score the airlines on the expectation that the operator will consult the community regarding promotions and deals.
- It was also noted that there are more opportunities to lease a Twin Otter Aircraft now.

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- SAAB aircrafts are currently being phased out by Loganair, it is thought that this will happen within the next five years. It was noted that this does cause slight concern as SAAB aircraft do provide relief for Twin Otters. Transport Scotland will be consulting Loganair on any potential issues.
 - Loganair have incurred heavy costs this year with such things as Compensation, Carbon and maintenance of new aircraft.
 - It was agreed to write to Loganair regarding the inability to book an unaccompanied minor on flights, for example if a senior citizen is travelling with a minor, both tickets must be purchased together, which overall increased costs. **JMC to action.**
 - Transport Scotland agreed to keep Tiree Transport Forum apprised of developments with the PSO and will confirm the full specification once approved. It is also the intention to have an annual review meeting with Transport Scotland and other relevant parties.
- 4. Tiree Airport**
- It was noted that there is still scaffolding on the airport tower, the corrosion was worse than initially expected, but it is hoped that the job will be complete within the next month.
 - It was noted that there is an issue with geese on the runway, particularly when air ambulance planes/helicopters are landing. There is a sweeper currently on trial.
 - The decision to close one of the shorter runways has not been made yet, however it was confirmed this this could be a possibility in the future. The main runway is used over half of the time meaning the closure of the third would not have any major impact on scheduled aircraft movements. It was noted that before the decision is made public consultation will take place.
 - It was also noted that lighting options for the other runways are currently being investigated. Funding is in place for the lights at main runway to be replaced. The new system would be run remotely, meaning they would be out all the time and can be controlled from the tower. It was also noted that the APAPI Approach Lighting are to be replaced on the main runway when funding becomes available, hopefully next year.
 - The bus stop sign has blown away but is to be replaced, there is also a private hanger to be built in the area and plans to create a long stay carpark.
 - There is also a new appliance being built for the airport, it is hoped to arrive before the end of the financial
 - The Three-Year Strategic Plan for the airport includes environmental upgrades such as LED lighting, roof space improvements, layout of check in desk, emergency service area and recycling, there are also early discussions regarding a café.
 - Thanks, were given to Michael Bratcher for his attendance.
- 5. Ferry Transport**
- It was noted that the Clansman will cover the Hebrides when the vessel goes into dry dock, it was felt that this was decided at short notice and with little consideration for the effected communities. It is unsure as to what effect this will have on Hauliers or existing bookings. It was agreed to write a letter expressing the disappointment of the Transport Forum, making reference to previous minutes whereby it was stated that this would not happen again. It was also agreed to investigate how long this change would be in place for. **JMC/IG to action.**
 - It was noted that there is a meeting scheduled to take place with CMAL on 29th October to discuss the Link Span works and improvement/works to the pier head including the possibility of a bus stop.
 - The summer timetable for 2019 is thought to be the same as this year.
 - It was proposed to investigate the possibility of extending the double Saturday sailing into the autumn months. It was agreed to get some evidence to support this and make a case to CalMac.
 - It was agreed to give a Linkspan update at the next Tiree Community Council Meeting.
- 6. Hauliers**
- None.
- 7. Crofting/Farming**
- None.
- 8. Retail Outlets**
- None.
- 9. Hotels**
- None.
- 10. Local Transport**
- None.
- 11. AOCB**

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- It was noted that the Oban PSO has experienced a significant drop in funding, approximately 20% less than previous years. The Tender for this contact is currently open.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 2.15pm.

Fig.1 Agreed Actions

ACTION	BY WHOM	DEADLINE
Advertise Tiree CalMac office opening hours.	FMR	C/FWD
Load Statistics and other info to be shared with TTF and feedback on.	JMC/FMR	C/FWD
Request tourism stats from Colin Woodcock and share with attendees.	JMC/CW	C/FWD
Confirm future deployment plans for Tiree route after new tonnage is received and continue to consult community on updates.	FMR/JMC	Ongoing
Circulate October Meeting with Calmac minutes	JMC	15/11/18
Letter to Loganair regarding linking minors tickets with accompanying adults	JMC	15/11/18
Letter to Calmac regarding Hebrides dry dock	JMC/IG	15/11/18