

A83 Taskforce Meeting 17 Minutes

Venue: 3 Villages Hall, Arrochar

Date: 22 January 2020, 10:15 – 11:30 am

Present:

Michael Matheson MSP (HG) – Chair	Scottish Government
Ryan Davies	Scottish Government
Jonny Moran (JM)	Transport Scotland
Fiona Brown (FB)	Transport Scotland
Martin Polland (MP)	Transport Scotland
Neil MacFarlane (N MacF)	Transport Scotland
Cllr Aileen Morton (AM)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr George Freeman (GF)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Alan Reid (AR)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Bobby Good (BG)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Dougie Philand (DP)	Argyll & Bute Council
Cllr Sandy Taylor (ST)	Argyll & Bute Council
Jim Smith (JS)	Argyll & Bute Council
Eddie Ross (ER)	BEAR Scotland
Ian Stewart (IS)	BEAR Scotland
Mike Baxter (MB)	BEAR Scotland
Neil MacLean (NMacL)	Georope
Clair McMurchy (CMcM)	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Iain Catterwell (IC)	Argyll Timber Transport Group
Ronnie MacDonald (RMacD)	Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui CC
Iain MacInnes (IMacI)	Lochgoil CC
Dianne Paton (DP)	Lochgoil CC
Don McKillop	
David Smart	

Apologies:

Gordon Ross	Western Ferries
Michael Russell MSP	Scottish Government
Brendan O’Hara MP	UK Parliament
Ellen Morton (EM)	Argyll & Bute Council
Iain Slorach	Cal-Mac
Jackie Baillie MSP	Scottish Government
Neil McRae	Hitrans
Ranald Robertson	Hitrans
Kirsty Flanagan	Argyll & Bute Council
Alistair McLundie	Western Ferries

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	Description	Action
1	Welcomes, Introductions & Apologies	
	<p>MM opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the meeting.</p> <p>No apologies noted during meeting and minute will be populated with apologies received in advance.</p>	
2	Review of Minutes of Meeting of 15th November 2018	
	<p>MM handed over to JM to review and provide an update the actions from the previous meeting on the 5th June 2019.</p> <p>Item 2 – The TRO that ABC were asked to put in place has been implemented. Their enforcement team monitor the turning bay when passing but are unable to have a regular patrol in place due to the location. MM confirmed that if obstruction is in place with vehicles that Police also have powers to take action.</p> <p>ABC public transport team have repeatedly asked the operator to utilise the bus turning facility but it is still not being used in winter months. TS contacted the Operator again recently to enquire if they will utilise the bus facility and emphasised that this facility is gritted / ploughed twice in winter – once by TS and once by ABC. However the operator has advised that their position remains.</p> <p>Q – Can existing layby at junction be widened to utilise as bus stop during winter? JM confirmed this will be looked at and considered, visit to locus to take place immediately following meeting and feedback prepared in due course. Post meeting update –site visit undertaken immediately after the meeting, further meeting with stakeholder occurred on 9 March 2020. The outcome of that meeting was that Argyll and Bute Council will look for an engineering solution to make this facility more functional for all types of bus user, including service and tourist buses and that the possibility of relocating the service bus stops onto the A83 would not be taken further owing to safety concerns. It was considered by the Group that short term measures such as additional signing and barriers may be counterproductive when considering the needs of all site users. Community Representatives to steer Argyll and Bute Council towards acceptable resolutions. Forestry and others to be consulted as land owners.</p> <p>Item 2 –A suite of additional signs has been produced and installed on the A83. Drawing was supplied by Bear during meeting and will subsequently be emailed out. This supplements the existing arrangement of a mobile VMS being deployed at the junction of A83 / A819. Post meeting update – drawings supplied in this email.</p> <p>Q – Can better signing be produced to cover amnesty periods during works? Bear will look to further enhance on site signing with regards to amnesty periods. Post meeting update – Bear have included additional signage on sites.</p> <p>Permanent site in Inveraray for VMS has been difficult to locate, agreement that no permanent sign would be erected and that temp sign will be deployed during any events. Post meeting update – this sign has been deployed during the recent event as previously advised.</p>	<p>Transport Scotland</p> <p>Bear</p> <p>Bear</p> <p>Transport Scotland</p>

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	<p>Item 3 - Covered within the BEAR presentation today. Copies of presentation will be emailed out in due course</p> <p>Item 6 – Transport Scotland’s Casualty Reduction Team met with Mary Haggerty and two other representatives from Community Council on 6 August 2019 to explain why the existing speed limit should be retained (insufficient frontage development at this location meaning many drivers are exceeding 40mph so no point in trying to make them do 30mph).</p> <p>Item 6 – Reply sent from Transport Scotland’s Casualty Reduction Team – no trend of darkness accidents (1 accident = no trend) meaning no justification for street lighting at this current time. Item addressed and closed</p>	<p>Transport Scotland</p>
3	<p>Update on programmed works – Catchpits and Hillside Planting (Presentation from BEAR Scotland)</p>	
	<p>MM invited IS of BEAR Scotland to present on programmed works for the A83. IS highlighted the significant resurfacing investment during FY 2019/20 and the planned works for the coming year. The 2020/21 programme of work has been designed to address the highest priority locations across the network including known drainage issues.</p> <p>IS then provided an update on the catchpit works and planned next steps. Discussion about next steps at Rest ensued with confirmation from JM that that TS will require to develop options and feedback at next Task Force. JM confirmed we are still looking to deliver Pit 1 and future options however delays to National budget settlement has delayed process. Unlikely works will be on ground prior to summer this year. Funding of works hasn’t disappeared but has been delayed. Post meeting update – works on Catchpit 1 will commence at the beginning of September 2020.</p> <p>Information was also provided on the new rock bunds at Glen Kinglas where a recent landslip event, some 300t, was stopped from reaching the road which would have led to a closure of some 2 days. Rock excavated from the RBT works. 28,000t was used which removed some 50km of HGV journeys had imported rock been used.</p> <p>Update was provided on the planned next steps for the hillside planting scheme.</p> <p>Update on why timings of works are undertaken. All works can be seen on Bear Website at http://roadworks.bearscot.com/Home/</p> <p>Some discussion followed the presentation with some clarifications sought from the audience on proposed works. Confirmation that for future meetings details of works on A82 will also be included in update.</p> <p>Request that presentation be emailed out, confirmed by JM this will happen.</p>	<p>Transport Scotland</p> <p>Bear Scotland</p> <p>Transport Scotland</p>

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4	<p>Strategic Transport Projects Review 2</p> <p>MM handed over to FB to provide update on STPR2 review and provide an update from the previous meeting on the 5th June 2019.</p> <p>FB confirmed that the review is looking at national investment priorities over next 20 years. Noting that the new National Transport Strategy will be published in coming weeks.</p> <p>The Case for Change reports – the first publication of STPR – will be published soon after NTS. This will include a national report and regional reports, including one of A+B.</p> <p>Time line for STPR2 Review is:</p> <p>Case for Change Report – Feb 2020 Option to be Appraised – Apr/May 2020 Appraisal Outcomes – Dec 2020 Final Reporting – March 2021</p> <p>Q – Any additional weighting factors for rural areas to be included? Answer is yes, a multi criteria approach will be undertaken and recognise issues. Focus of regional needs is a major part of the process on STPR2. The NTS priorities recognise many the challenges of rural areas, and these are imbedded in STPR.</p> <p>Q- Can slides be emailed out – Answer is yes, slides will be emailed out in due course.</p> <p>Q- Can A+B be included in Glasgow Region given a lot of journeys either start or end here? SPT are members of the Glasgow Region, which covers part of A+B region. Interregional/ national perspective part of the evidence based process. As the ‘Case for Change’ reports are published, and future publications, all stakeholders/ public can comment on any region if they feel issues are not represented.</p> <p>Q – Once report finalised are schemes shovel ready? STPR is first stage in investment plan process and represents the Strategic Business Case (first stage of the 5 case business case model). The next stage business cases will then follow, along with design development and statutory processes. Alongside this we need to consider funding. This is a 20 year plan but will be subject to prioritisation, which we will revisit at suitable intervals.</p>	Transport Scotland
5	<p>General Discussion / AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning signs on Council roads when A83 is closed? Confirmation that training has been delivered and ongoing dialogue has been taking place between A+B and Bear. Confirmation that dialogue will continue to look to explore whether signs can be automated from control centre. Post meeting update – Transport Scotland are currently considering a report compiled by BEAR regarding options for replacement of the existing electronic signing strategy which is at the end of its operational life. • Wrong sign/direction at Lochgoilhead? Bear will look to investigate and close out as soon as possible. Confirmation that review of landslide response plan also to be undertaken. Post 	<p>Bear/JS</p> <p>Bear</p>

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	<p style="color: red;">meeting update – A new sign for the B828 – B839 junction is being designed by BEAR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Signals at Inveraray appear to have some issues? Signals have been checked and no issues noted. Perhaps drivers jumping red lights is issue. Any specific issues with lights to be reported to Bear who will investigate. • Storm Brendan and issue with cars stacked close to loch edge? Confirmation that this would be a Police issue who are usually first responders on site. Public safety is key and drivers would be removed to safer area as soon as possible. • Issue with mirrors on vehicles raised, what plans are in place to stop same happening? Bear will look at specific areas and will arrange for vegetation to be cut back, noted many issues are private land owners responsibility however check will be made and any issues resolved. Post meeting note – Safety Inspections continue along the entire A83 route and any areas of foliage requiring attention will be addressed. 	Bear
6	Summary and Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>MM thanked all for attending and concluded what was acknowledged as a positive meeting.</p> <p>MM suggested that a further meeting be held in 6 months' time, date to be confirmed, likely around August.</p>	