

**Arran Eco Savvy Community
Arran Community Transport Gathering
Tuesday 18th September at 6pm
Brodick Ormidale Pavilion**

Welcome/Intro from Jude King

- Thrilled to have Daniel Lafferty and team from Transport Scotland here to facilitate elements of our meeting today and to note community insight to shape Scotland's New Transport Strategy.
- Background--Eco Savvy is in the process of designing a 2yr Climate Challenge Funded project to commence April 2019 and are hosting the meeting to gather community insight and ideas for sustainable transport strand of a multi-faceted project.
- Eco Savvy has recently met with organisations on the island with direct services and causes relating to travel and transport on Arran. Now is an opportunity to speak to the Arran community for ideas, and to develop the project proposal further.

Intro from Councillor McMaster

- Highlight Eco Savvy event
- Focus on interconnectivity between communities
- Arran score highly on all qualitative scales for all kinds of aspect of life quality EXCEPT social isolation
- Locality roadshows highlighted need for better on island connections out with ferry timetable

Daniel Lafferty - Workshop facilitated by Daniel Lafferty and team from Transport Scotland. Purpose – to get your views on how our future transport system should help support improved quality

About Transport Scotland

- National Transport Agency part of the Scottish Government
- Funding Scotland's passenger rail - highest value contract is Abellio Scotland
- Responsible for accessibility policy
- Responsible for road safety – management of trunk road networks, ferry transport, ticketing, lifeline air services
- Currently reviewing Scotland's National Transport Strategy
 - o First strategy was published in 2006
 - o So many changes since (political, technological & social) mean that now it is necessary to review the old, and develop a new transport strategy for the next 20 years
- Island's transport context
- Issues with transporting goods

Solutions for the here and now?

- Electric car sharing clubs
 - Community transport
 - Demand responsive bus services
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Groups of around 5 people invited to think of solutions to improve day to day transport

Group 1

- Improve timings of the buses
- Not taking cash payments as these cause delays
- Reducing the size of cars
- Levy taxes
- Volunteer driving clubs
- Felt don't necessarily need concessionary passes – folk willing to pay for a good service

TS:

An interesting discussion what has primacy-- ferry/bus dilemma
Concessionary travel scheme depends on having a good bus service

Group 2

- Resume postbus service
- Mybus – not working, too big, not suitable for purpose, is there a different way to look at that budget, local delivery/solution
- Local facilitator to increase use of social media etc e.g. volunteers in each village
- Phonebook of people in each village happy to give lifts
- Business – could employers give their staff an incentive to offer lifts to others?
- Recent cabinet, young person asked why the only concessions on the island are only for the richest, when young people should also benefit? -wondered whether there is a local solution for that as well.

TS:

Post bus talked about in other workshops, could also utilise other busses/vans on the island with the same concept

Group 3

- More regular busses, specifically around supporting workers starting earlier and finishing later
- Transport co-ordinator for Arran
- Coordinator for Mybus
- Designated cycle paths for active travel e.g. impossible to travel from Brodick to Whiting Bay. Particularly for young people-tarmacked, not on the road, making it safer and more viable
- eBike hub – could use old pier building as central hub.
- Many people have more than 1 job and don't work the usual 9 to 5.
- Know from research that good habits need to be started at young age

TS:

Some interesting ideas around time making a difference. This came out at a rural event recently that many people have more than one job, regularly out with 9-5 bracket. Unreliable, infrequent transport service is a detriment to employers and employees and wider society.

Active travel-importance to instil habits at a young age as it is more likely that they will stick.

Group 4

- Electric car membership
- eBikes for commuting e.g Boris bikes
- Cycle to work day
- Bookable electric bus
- Delivery vans with spare seats for hitch hikers
- Campaign to pick up hitch hikers
- Better winter service
- Sufficient & sustainable way to make energy for new cars

TS:

Last point is very important if we are talking about decarbonising transport, if we don't make sure that the right mix of renewable energy is involved we are effectively "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

Group 5

- Tiree – "ring a ride" poster
- MyBus – problems ongoing since the start
- Ferry, busses and trains need to sort timetables between them
- Arran News Foundation – no busses at night in winter
- No communication for foot passengers if something going wrong with ferry
- eBikes will take over
- Cycle path and lanes – two abreast is best
- Bikes on busses – should be encouraged

TS :

Raised a very important point around communication. No transport has ever worked without a form of delay. Tailored arrangements, will discuss following.

Rolling back the past

- Planning for the future
- ScotGov has commitment to phase out diesel by 2032
- Need a recharging structure – electric cars not only a solution for cities
- Time that suits them, in location that suits them
- May be ideal for rural, island communities where journeys can be shorter
- Current ferry situation is indicative of the investment that we need to continue to make

What we're seeing now

- Changes that transport can't necessarily control e.g. closure of local banks meaning people have to travel further
- Photo of Ferry queue--Sometimes things happen to reduce the cost of fares for example but this means demand then shoots up, incurring longer wait times.

- Glasgow General Hospital example, state of the art facility but people must travel further to access services- in that context transport is more important to people's lives than ever before

Future opportunities

- Using technology on bus
- Driverless cars? –UK Govt believe decent scale will be seen by 2021
- Means solutions for accessibility
- Greater connectivity – people can work from home putting less strain on public transport

But it won't all be seamless

- Communication – people need to be given the best information possible (example from earlier in the day in Edinburgh-“train has been cancelled for a fault that has now been fixed”)
- Benefits need to be distributed equally across society
- Social interaction – transport is about people

Our changing population

- In North Ayrshire, within 20 years 88% of population will be 75yrs old or over
- Health conditions, physical and mental that will need extra support and higher reliance on the younger generations
- Dementia will massively increase (from 90,000 to 140,000 by 2036 Alzheimers Scotland figures)

Over to you - Future opportunities to improve transport in and to/from islands – and barriers needed to overcome to realise them?

Future challenges and how to surmount them?

Group 1

- Cycling – negative perception due to one main road – shift cycling onto off-road routes by raising awareness among locals and tourists
- Route from Brodick to Lamlash-at a recent meeting hosted by Eco Savvy, the NAC Active Travel and Transport Manager committed to carrying to a feasibility study, won't happen anytime soon but it is heading in the right direction.
- Would want the government to make cycling a priority with better cycle paths.
- Enhance different routes between schools in each village for school kids and tourists
- Bikes and busses – VA lobbied SPT for buses to take bikes but SPT wouldn't do it – need to keep pushing
- Simple as ABC – Arran Bike Collection – local delivery companies can get a small fee for picking up and transporting bikes
- Busses – young person's perspective is not affordable in comparison to using a car and infrequency is unappealing.
- Bus service driven by NAC, SPT. Can do busses in figure of 8 and that would mean a bus every hour all over the island

Minutes: Arran Community Transport Gathering

- Digital info on bus shelters

Group 2

- Carshare scheme
- More frequent and reliable ferries – ferries going out of different places on Arran
- Communication – right info to right people at right time
- Smaller busses allowing more frequency
- Well integrated network with options
- Restrictive nature of timetables
- Lack of e-charging points
- Lack of multi-user off road routes

Group 3

- Linking public health agenda to transport strategy e.g. population, active travel to reduce obesity, cycling confidence training to help families cycle confidently on the roads, driver awareness training and media campaign around cycling
- Boat taxis that can take bikes around the island
- Demand responsive busses
- Coordination of tailor-made transport
- More schemes using personal private cars and volunteers
- Bring back post office bus service
- More frequent busses
- Small aircraft landing strip

Group 4

- More diversity in sailing destinations
- Better management of sailings and plans to replace equipment e.g. reducing Portavadie
- More locally grown and consumed food
- Sufficient power point for community cars
- Strong local leadership with power to make change
- More commercialisation of transport
- Arran to act as role model for Scotland e.g. electric cars
- Aging population will increase issues. Young people need an incentive to stay on island to take care of older generation e.g. Career opportunities – better relationship between education sector and local workforces
- Execution of ideas and solutions from today

Group 5

- All the above
- Go back to what worked well, and go into the future with modern technology that is still simple at the point of use and is properly integrated.

TS Vision Statement:

Scotland will have a cleaner, inclusive, and accessible transport system helping to have deliver a healthier, prosperous and fairer nation for communities, businesses and individuals.

4 key themes:

1. Promotes equality
2. Helping economy prosper
3. Effects of climate change
4. Improves our health & wellbeing

Next steps

- Ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Formally consult on draft NTS2 next year
- Would love to hear your views via:

Email: NTSReview@transport.gov.scot

Web: www.transport.gov.scot/ntsreview

Any questions?

Helen: The barrier is cynicism of local communities. People don't come (and haven't come tonight) as they think it won't make a difference. Could TS give 2 or 3 things that have come out of tonight

TS:

1. Stakeholder engagement in rural and island communities – taking feedback for the strategy and linking it to the vision and core themes
2. Looking at selection of proposals that can have a tangible effect on island communities
3. People encouraged to keep in touch with their views

Others: How will policy be discussed/communicated?

-Draft strategies will be circulated

-TS will keep in touch.

Jude: Add that Eco Savvy is Scottish Government funded to tackle sustainability and environmental issues. Hosting this meeting to primarily gather community insight to shape our potential 2 year project, which will improve sustainable & low carbon transport. All feedback and ideas are being noted, any that haven't been voiced please let us know with a note or after and we will update group on progress.

Thanks all for coming.

Meeting ended: 19:45