

## **Island of Kerrera Ferry Service**

### **Meeting with Councillors 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012**

#### **The Current Situation**

**The Ferry provision to the Island of Kerrera constitutes a 'lifeline' ferry service, the residents of Kerrera rely on ferries for employment, education, health and social needs. Without a ferry service then the community will cease to exist.**

#### **1. Health and Safety**

- The public ferry is not safely accessible at all states of tide. Passengers have had to jump onto the ferry or access the ferry via the beach after climbing over rocks at low tides.
- Slipways are unlit, making winter travel in mornings and evenings dangerous.
- No shelters are provided for passengers waiting on the ferry.
- Emergency and utility vehicles cannot access the island at all states of the tide, putting residents and their properties at risk.

#### **2. Service Level**

- The ferry timetable restricts access to employment, education, health services and social provision.
- Ferry fares are excessive in comparison to other similar crossings.
- The residents at the North end of the island have no road access to the public ferry and have no guaranteed freight service.
- Individual residents are charged differing rates for services.

#### **3. Animal Welfare**

- Livestock cannot be loaded at all states of tide, meaning they have to be held in trailers/pens for excessive periods of time.
- The lack of freight provision to the North end of the island has the potential to negatively impact on animal welfare as the delivery of feed and movement of animals cannot be guaranteed.
- Stock going to market/abattoir have to travel when tides allow, not when it is necessary.

#### **What Kerrera Needs**

1. A guaranteed ferry service that serves all of Kerrera (both residents and businesses) and that is accessible, by road, by all residents and businesses.
2. A safe, guaranteed ferry service that can operate at all states of the tide.
3. A published list of affordable tariffs for passengers, vehicles and freight.
4. Investment in the infrastructure on and off the island, i.e. piers, roads, car parks.
5. Recognition that the ferry service is a lifeline service and that intervention and support from Scottish Government is essential for the community to survive.
6. A ferry service that allows all of Kerrera's residents to access work, education, health and social needs.
7. A ferry service that allows emergency and utility vehicles access to the island at all states of tide.

**Ferries to Kerrera are a lifeline service. Why should Kerrera be treated differently to other island communities (i.e. RET, investments in infrastructure, a guaranteed lifeline service and support from central/local government)? Kerrera is too small a community to raise funds and develop infrastructure on its own. It needs assistance both financial and administrative.**