

Sunday Ferry Service Survey.

The following responses have been received through the Arran Community Council website "Contact us" section.

Ferry Survey responses from Website:

- Just completed the Cal Mac survey for Sunday option C. However they have removed the 12.30 and 1.50 sailings for 'on board drills' why does this have to be completed on a Sunday? one of the busiest days in summer, why not a Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday ?
Also agree with the recent letter in the Banner that we need a later return sailing than the last ferry at 6 pm each evening.
Better to have a later sailing and remove one during the day if necessary.
Thanks for your consideration
- Good to see consideration being given to earlier sailings on a Sunday. Would like to know why an option which included the ferry coming back to Arran with a later sailing on the Saturday and staying overnight then depart at the 8:20 schedule was not included. This would surely provide a better revenue opportunity for Cal Mac than leaving Ardrossan at 7am on a Sunday morning. Need to open up consideration for later sailings especially over weekends to allow residents to enjoy a full day mainland visit. 6pm is too early for folks visiting hospitals etc which are not in the immediate area.
- We welcome the possible introduction of an 8.20 sailing from Brodick on Sunday mornings. This will enable us to attend several events on the mainland held throughout the year that start at 10am. The 8.20 & 11.05 sailings out and the 3.15 & 6pm sailings back would be the most sensible choice, leaving a gap in the middle of the day for training drills.
- Asking the community for their views on Sunday timetable matters is a welcome innovation and to be commended. An 0820 Brodick departure will greatly benefit residents who wish to have a full Sunday on the mainland rather than having to stay away from home on Saturday night. An 0700 Sunday Ardrossan departure and the consequent cancellation of either the 0945 or 1230 is less attractive.
Recent letters in the Press have raised similar general timetable concerns which could be addressed by the Scottish Ferries Review before the next contract is placed.
The Draft Ferries Plan to be published shortly will have a 6 week online consultation period for the community to raise such contractual concerns for resolution eg contractual provision of two vessels could provide a timetable like that for Bute. Rothesay has 980 sailings a month, Brodick has 300. Both routes carry 700k+ passengers annually.

The Community Council appreciate the respondents' comments and we have passed them on to the relevant Cal-Mac departments and will also ensure that the views are integrated with the other survey results.