

TravelWatch ISLE OF MAN

INFORMATION BULLETIN 9 - February 2008

1. A meeting with the Airport Director took place on 14th January. This was an encouraging meeting with evidence that Ann Reynolds is committed to trying to make improvements for the benefit of passengers. For example plans are well advanced to improve passengers' ability to obtain information in the departure lounge when there is service disruption. We understand that other facilities are to be improved including providing an "internet café" facility in the airport.
2. A meeting of supporters took place on 5th December principally to review the public meeting to plan the next public meeting on 1st March.
3. A further meeting of supporters took place on 21st January. A draft constitution was agreed for adoption at the public meeting.
4. The format of the next Public Meeting on 1st March will be to combine presentations and reporting back with our first AGM. Details of speakers and timing will be provided on our website.
5. The Official Report (Hansard) PP137/09 of the appearance of TravelWatch before the Tynwald Select Committee on the Steam Packet on 23 November 2007 is now available at www.tynwald.org.im . The Steam Packet Company gave their own evidence on 30 January and are expected to appear again on 3 March.
6. Chairman Brendan O'Friel attends meetings with other TravelWatch organisations in the UK which provide valuable contacts and keeps us in touch with passenger developments elsewhere. For example the Westminster Government is consulting widely about improved representation for bus passengers in England.

Passenger Information

1. Flights to Bristol and Southampton from the Island have been suspended until after Easter.
2. Passengers using Liverpool Airport can purchase Saveway Tickets for bus, trains and ferries around Merseyside from the information desk at the airport . Priced at £4.30 for an adult for the whole of Merseyside, these appear particularly attractive for anyone traveling to Chester or Southport. On weekdays they can only be used after 09.30.
3. The Steam Packet have indicated to the Tynwald Select Committee a willingness to consider discounted fares for emergency short-notice travel if no special offer fares are available on the required sailing. Details are not yet available.

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