

RURAL TRANSPORT NETWORK

RURAL TRANSPORT CONNECTING RURAL IRELAND

The Road Ahead..

Jack Roche Chairperson

Dear Member,

Hope you are all keeping well. This newsletter will give you a brief update on the recent work of the Network and invites you to participate in a campaign "To sustain and enhance the role of the Rural Transport Network in Ireland".

This has been a year of great uncertainty - - yet you and the companies you represent have supported the work of the Network and the recent submission document to Government. Our greatest strength is our unity. We have completed successful campaigns in the past. Furthermore in the current economic situation we need to build on our strengths and come together as one to ensure the successful future of the Rural Transport Programme.

So where do we go from here?

- We will continue to take our position as companies delivering this programme on the ground.
- We will engage in a local and National Campaign to positively promote the programme
- We will continue work in an efficient and effective way, to ensure the learning's and achievements from the past 10 years are not lost.

To build our campaign further I would like to

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invite you our members to:

1. Engage with your local politicians on a regular basis.
2. Keep the Network up to date on achievements, challenges and events in your local area.

The Network will

1. Continue to Engage with the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport (see page 2).
2. Hold an information day in the Dail to promote the Rural Transport Network and RTP Programme.
3. Circulate a promotional newsletter to all TDs and Senators.
4. Continue to meet with Pobal on a bi monthly basis.

Jack Roche

Jack Roche
Chairperson

Sincere Condolences to our colleague, Gretta O Connor, member of the RTN executive committee and board member of The Rural Bus, Co Wexford, on the recent sudden death of her husband.

Meeting with Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS)

On Tuesday 20th September, members of the Executive Committee of the Rural Transport Network met with Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport officials. This meeting was called by the Department, who were represented by John McCarthy, Noel Singleton & Clare Finnegan. During the two hour meeting, the department outlined this is a very critical time for the programme, and the RTN submission to Government was very timely.

The discussions were open, with the Department requesting that the RTN meet with them on a regular basis. The next meeting has been scheduled for November 2011.

This is a very good opportunity for the Network and its members and it is now the time for the Network to demonstrate to the Department exactly what is happening on the ground, prove our achievements and show how efficiencies can be created.

Presentation to DTTAS officials by 3 RTP companies

As Chairperson of the Network, I would like to congratulate and commend the following companies, who made presentations to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport on two occasions over the past few months. These meetings were requested by the Department and organised by Pobal.

The companies involved were:

Fiona O Shea – SITT, Co Donegal

Dick Hinchy – Ardcarne Kilmore, Co Roscommon

Jackie Mealley – RingaLink, Co Kilkenny.

Well done to all involved!!

Current Models of Integration

There are fantastic models of transport and integration currently happening throughout the country. Examples are SITT, Co. Donegal and Sligo RTP, Co Sligo. We are hopeful to have presentations on both of these models to all RTN members. Fiona O Shea has confirmed that she will be available to present at the National Meeting, Wednesday 12th October 2011. The network has received a copy of SITT's recent case study, and this will be forwarded to all companies in due course.

News Updates...

Value for Money Review

As you are aware there has been no update on the publish date of Value For Money Review – The Network do not see this as a major challenge at this time. We need to be working towards the future and positioning the programme. As we were not involved in the VFM we will deal with it when it is released. What we have heard to date is quiet negative with the programme being seen as “inefficient, ineffective and poor value for money.” The Network can not respond at this time, however what we can do is positively promote all that is happening and actively engage in influencing the direction of a new programme, which will build on the learning to date and the successful models that have emerged throughout the country.

Ageing Well Network

On 28th-30th September 2011 the 1st International Conference on Age Friendly Cities was held in Dublin. Alan Kerry, Manager of OK Transport and PRO of Rural Transport Network made a presentation on “Access, Mobility & Transport”.

National Ploughing Championships

Rural Transport was represented through Breda Whelan, Co Wicklow Community Partnership and Noel McCormack, Westmeath Rural Transport Association Ltd, at this year’s National Ploughing Championships in Athy, Co Kildare. The event took place from 20-23rd September 2011.

Department of Public Expenditure Review

On 14th August 2011, Noel McCormack, Westmeath Rural Transport Association Ltd had a site visit from the Department of Public Expenditure Review. The site visit was made by Eoin Dormer of the Central Expenditure Evaluation Unit as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. This meeting went very well and there has been very positive feedback

Upcoming Meetings & Events.

RTN Members National Meeting

The National meeting of the Rural Transport Network will be held on the 12th October 2011. This meeting will be held in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise. The meeting will commence at 10.30 am. The agenda was circulated to all on 05th October via email...details can also be viewed on the Members area of the website under Meetings.

We would encourage all members to attend this meeting, as this is an opportunity for the Network to strategize for the remainder of the year

Bi monthly Meeting with Pobal

The next meeting will be held on Friday 07th October 2011. Denis Leamy Bernie McDonnell and Rachel Cusack have confirmed their attendance to this meeting. Feedback from this meeting will take place at the National Meeting next week.

Roscommon Rural Transport Forum

A Rural Transport seminar will take place on Tuesday 18th October 2011, at Kilbride Community Centre at 2pm. Details circulated by email on 04th October 2011. For More Info contact Dick Hinchy - 087 9002752

Meetings to be scheduled

Meetings are to take place with representatives from the CTTC and NTA in coming weeks. Updates from both these meetings will be circulated to all companies.

Website and Email Updates

From 01st October, the official Rural Transport Network email will be info@ruraltransportnetwork.ie.

Please save this address to your contact list.

The Gmail account will no longer be in use from this date.

From 01st November 2011, all Network news will be circulated through the website and members forums. This will reduce the number of emails hitting your inbox every week. Text alerts will be sent out for the first month to remind you to check the website for updates. You will also get notification email every time a new post is uploaded to the members area of the Website.

Please Check that you can log on successfully to the RTN Members area of the website.

Should you have any questions on the RTN website or members forums, you can speak with Claire at the National meeting or ring her anytime from 9-5 Monday – Friday on 087 7817398/066 7147002.

User guides for both the members extranet and forum have been distributed previously, if you require a copy please contact Claire.

Has your company any news to share with other Network members ?? To ensure it is included in the next newsletter please contact us on info@ruraltransportnetwork.ie

Company Name
 Rural Transport Network,
 Sliabh Luachra Cultural, Scartaglin ,
 Co Kerry.

Phone:
 066 7147002
 087 7817398

Fax:
 066 7147038

E-Mail:
info@ruraltransportnetwork.ie

