Irish Rural Link

24th October 2017

**Irish Rural Link Welcomes Minister Ross Comments on Support for Community Car Schemes and other initiatives**

Irish Rural Link (IRL) – the national network representing the interest of rural communities welcome initiatives Minister Ross has mentioned in the Media today to alleviate problems of rural isolation if new Drink Driving legislation is passed.

Speaking to the Irish Times and on Newstalk earlier today (Tuesday 24th October 2017), Minister Ross hinted at the roll out of a community car scheme and looking at insurance costs for publicans to drive customers home from the pub.

IRL welcome the Ministers acknowledgement that the impact the new Drink Driving laws will have on rural areas and on the people who are living there and he is looking at measures that could help alleviate this impact.

IRL now call for further consultation with community groups by Minister Ross and his Department on how such measures could be implemented and supported.

Ends

**For further information, please contact (anytime):**

Seamus Boland (Chief Executive) 0862491153 or Louise Lennon (Policy and Communications Officer) 0861069244

**About Irish Rural Link:**

Irish Rural Link represents the interests of locally based rural groups in disadvantaged and marginalised rural areas by highlighting problems, advocating appropriate policies, sharing experiences and examples of good practice. It has a membership of over 600 rural community groups dedicated to sustainable rural development and represents rural communities at a national and international level