Irish Rural Link

13th April 2017

**Irish Rural Link Now Calls for a Comprehensive Review of Public Transport for Rural Areas**

Irish Rural Link (IRL) – the national network representing the interest of rural communities are calling on Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, to now do a comprehensive review of the provision of public transport for rural areas.

IRL welcome that the Bus Eireann Strikes, which went on for 21 days, is now temporarily called off. During the strike, the Minister for Transport repeatedly said he would only become involved once the strike was over. We are now calling on the Minister for a comprehensive review of public transport to take place that will involve all stakeholders.

People in rural areas were left stranded for the past few weeks. People missed work, missed hospital appointments, and students had to make alternative arrangements to travel to and from college. A proper and reliable transport service needs to be put in place in rural areas.

With one of the Labour Court’s recommendations being the closure of routes in rural areas, IRL are calling that no routes are axed until alternatives are put in place. People cannot be inconvenienced any longer. The Minister, Department of Transport and NTA now need to come together and ensure that no area is left without public transport.

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 nearly 500 rural community groups dedicated to sustainable rural development and represents rural communities at a national and international level