Irish Rural Link

23rd March 2017

**Irish Rural Link Disappointed at Extremely short notice of Bus Eireann Strikes**

Irish Rural Link (IRL) – the national network representing the interest of rural communities have expressed their disappointment at the extremely short notice of Bus Eireann Strikes; scheduled now to take place from Midnight tonight.

This short notice will really inconvenience people living in rural areas who rely on Bus Eireann services to travel to work, college and indeed hospital appointments. The short notice means that many people will be unable to arrange alternative travel arrangements. People who rely on Bus Eireann to access hospital appointments will have to cancel, which they were most likely waiting a long time for in the first instance.

IRL are also disappointed that the talks have once again broken down without any resolution and that the machinery of the state have failed to resolve this.

IRL have held off on calling for the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, in getting involved to date in these talks. However, it has gone past crisis point and we are calling for the Minister to now intervene and become involved in fresh talks.

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