

Press Release: For Immediate Release

8th May 2020

Irish Rural Link Welcome Funding of €40 million COVID-19 Support Package for Community and Voluntary Organisations

Irish Rural Link (IRL) – the national network representing the interest of rural communities has today welcomed the announcement by Minister Michael Ring and Minister Sean Canney, of a COVID-19 support package of €40 million for Community and Voluntary Organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises.

Working with community and voluntary organisations across the country we know the financial struggle they are currently facing as demand for their services have increased substantially since the beginning of the Covid pandemic.

The services many of these organisations, charities and social enterprises are essential throughout the year but have become more vital than ever over the past few months to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable in our society continue to be met and to ensure that they can stay safe during these times.

Many of these organisations and charities have seen a drop in any earned income they can generate as result of having to close certain parts of their services such as, charity shops, rental of space for meetings or other activities, etc, so this funding will be very welcome to help compensate for some of this lost income.

Seamus Boland, CEO of IRL said “The announcement of this fund is very welcome. As the crisis continues and demand for the services of community and voluntary groups and charities continues to grow, we need to ensure that they can continue to meet this growing demand. We need these organisations more than ever before so that our most vulnerable are protected and that we do not leave anyone behind during this crisis”.

The funding will be administered by Pobal through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

-Ends-

For further information, please contact (anytime):

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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.