



Voluntary Transport Solutions



**West Cork
Rural Transport**

Step by Step !

The community group decides on a route that is needed.

This may be weekly, monthly, every so often or once off. It might link in with something already happening in the area e.g. bingo, mass, youth club, festival etc.



The group will now need to find one or more drivers willing to volunteer.

This person must have a D1 license, and experience of bus driving. Ideally, you may find a few drivers so that you are not depending on 1 person only.



West Cork Rural Transport will meet the Volunteer.

We will discuss the project with the volunteer, and ask him/her to fill out a Garda vetting form. Also, the volunteer will take a quick test drive.



Arrangements will be made for the bus pick up and drop off.

Between WCRT, the group and the volunteer we'll decide on the best place to pick up the keys for the bus, return them and organise any other logistics.



Once everything has been organised, the route can begin.

It is important that the community group has at least one person dedicated to transport over the long term to oversee the organisation of passenger collection etc

Introduction

West Cork Rural Transport (WCRT) is expanding transport services which are to be Volunteer supported and provided in the 'down time' of the buses, primarily at evening and weekends. This will have a great impact on the quality of life for people who may find themselves isolated or marginalised.

Buses are available to communities, out of hours; these buses can be 'borrowed' by a community group, and driven by a local, licensed volunteer.

This volunteer, willing to offer time for a particular journey e.g. weekly mass, youth group outings, Bingo, or outings for wheel chair user(s) can drive the bus, at no cost to the community.

Between local volunteering and WCRT, an expansive and increased level of rural transport can be created that is owned and managed by the community themselves.

A great opportunity for a community to design and manage a transport service that suits a particular need, in a particular area.

How does it work?

Where a community group identifies a need, a service can be owned and managed by the community themselves. Following the step by step process (left), results

can be twofold. The community resolves a transport issue that may have been limiting, and the level of disadvantaged is decreased locally.

Non displacement of local, private services

Where a local taxi/hackney/bus is being used for a regular route or journey, WCRT will not replace that service. This project aims to support local communities and does not wish to displace existing services.

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*“Thank you for enabling us to offer the service; young and old availed of the shuttle bus. Parents were delighted they didn’t have to carry children in their arms back to town, it was a roaring success”
Dunmanway Enterprise Network ran a shuttle bus for the Agricultural Show.*



West Cork Rural Transport

Objectives of Voluntary Transport Solutions

- * To pioneer a method of voluntary activity in West Cork
- * Expand WCRT service provision through innovative methods, utilising resources based on social assets.
- * Empower communities through support and partnership to take responsibility for ownership and management of local voluntary services.
- * Decrease the levels of disadvantage and deprivation of marginalised communities
- * Develop methods of partnership with established community organisations.

West Cork Rural Transport welcomes volunteering and treats it in its rightful manner as an exchange of gifts. The volunteer freely gives their time and energy to the placement organisation. The organisation may give training and experience. This arrangement is binding in honour only and is not intended to create a legal contract.



Success Stories to date

Many groups throughout West Cork have taken part in the initiative; by providing a voluntary driver they have been able to offer transport for once off outings and regular journeys such as shuttle bus to shows pub runs, card nights, mass runs and many more. Feedback has been excellent and the groups have identified a resulting positive impact on the local community. User groups include Goleen Community Council, Dunmanway Agricultural Show, Funky Fish Youth Café, Bandon Gateway Group, Timoleague Festival, West Cork Triathlon Club, Ahakista Regatta, Schull Agricultural Show....and many more.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can the community use the bus? The WCRT buses are available out of hours i.e. after 6pm on weeknights and all day Saturday and Sunday. The buses are located in various towns in west Cork, so taking the bus shouldn't involve a long journey to collect it or drop it off when finished.

I have a D1 licence and wish to volunteer. Can I do this without being in a community group? Contact us and we will place you on a panel of voluntary drivers, and connect you with a need in your local area.

Is there a cost? As this initiative is aimed at improving quality of life in local communities, there is no charge for using WCRT transport as part of the volunteering initiative. The aim is to provide communities with additional services, that they can manage, and to improve the local quality of life. The bus will be available, fuelled, taxed and insured at no charge. The community will only be required to provide the volunteers to manage the journeys and drive the bus. The community is welcome to offer a contribution to WCRT if appropriate.