



local link
Donegal

For online information please visit:
Locallink.ie

Ask your driver or other staff member for assistance

Call us at: **00353 7497 41644**
Email us at: **donegal@locallink.ie**

Operated By:
Local Link Donegal/ SITT Rural Transport Niall Mór Community & Enterprise Centre Killybegs

The manager's view

Fiona O'Shea from Killybegs is manager at Donegal Local Link. Here she reflects on her ten year association with the organisation.

I came to SITT Rural Transport as a volunteer in April 2007 and started working on a part-time basis in May of the same year. When I started there were three routes operating and one other staff along with myself, Claire Campbell.

Rural transport back then was a social inclusion programme managed by Pobal. Transport was generally intended to be a local service to enable people living out in rural areas access to local services one day per week and indeed in some cases one day per month. One of the big positives for people was that they could use their Free

Travel Pass on these services. This was a new concept for people living in rural Donegal. Until this programme came along there were very limited services where people could travel use their pass. My journey with SITT has been incredibly interesting, sometimes challenging but mostly extremely rewarding in the positive impact our work has on the ordinary lives of the people of County Donegal.

One thing I have come to understand is that transport is much more than a bus and driver going from A to B... it is about connectivity, opportunity, accessibility, choice and independence. Transport that is accessible and affordable has the ability to remove barriers to isolation and provide access to educa-



Fiona O'Shea

tion, work and social integration. I have a great job, there is never a dull day, from the dispatch element to the administration and operational side.

Working with great people, from the bus operators, drivers, travel assistants and Escorts, HSE Centre's management and staff, funders and funding administrators etc., has been an incredible experience and the most important people – the passengers. The vast dynamic of passenger profile is exciting and growing from HSE passengers attending day services, students attending college, commuters going to work, Friday shoppers, Pension runs, Social Clubs, Alzheimer's groups, lunch clubs, Island commuters, Youth projects, Tour-

ists, etc. it definitely keeps me on my toes.

The challenge for me going forward is to deliver local transport that meets local needs while ensuring access for all; it needs to be effective and efficient while being affordable and accessible. This ranges from transporting people to HSE Day Services, Public & Commuter Services, and traditional Rural Transport services. Supporting this, is the super team what work for SITT. We have the dream team!

I have met some wonderful people along the way who in their own way have mentored and guided me and SITT...most are retired now! Thank you for your unconditional support through the years.



Philomena Doherty, Cloughan and Claire Campbell. Kilcar pictured at the launch of a new Locallink Donegal service



Staff on the Wild Atlantic Way promoting the Fanad Summer Service



Collette Lyons - our dispatcher learning a tune