



THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF OUR CUSTOMERS

A.C.T.S. is vital for the wheelchair user

Public transport has improved, friends and family are generous in their help, but **ACTS** has made the world my oyster. I am at concerts, theatres, further education classes, restaurants, shops - everywhere!

It really is good to get out, and with **ACTS** I can - and you can

Mary Murphy, Churchtown

Helping senior citizens with their weekly shopping

We have been using this bus service for some time now and the benefits are of the uppermost to our citizens as transport was an issue before we heard of **ACTS**.

Our senior citizens would not be able to get their weekly shop or collect pensions, without your help every Friday, as no public transport is available. The drivers are to be commended on their patience and understanding in their work and how they deal with people with disabilities and also with the elderly.

Long may it continue and good luck to Gerry and all the staff of **ACTS** in their new premises.

Marian Kelly, Hillview Resource Centre



L to r: Michael Fox, Chair, Ray Byrne, Consultant, Gerry O'Brien, Manager and Mary Collins, Vice Chair, at Government Buildings following a meeting in January 2007 with the Political Advisor to the Taoiseach, Ms Una Claffey, regarding **ACTS** proposal for Capital Funding and recognition of Dial a Ride transport services.

What would I do without A.C.T.S.?

My name is Natalie Mooney. I am representing a lot of wheelchair users of **ACTS** services. We, as a group of people who depend on certain transport requirements, have found that need met to a high degree in **ACTS**.

My past experiences before using **ACTS**

were a non-existence of regular social life. I wanted and should have been able to have a normal life and **ACTS** has given that back to me.

I would use **ACTS** for the following reasons:

Going to the Airport for a holiday

Going shopping

Meeting with friends

Participating in the mini-marathon

The ability to have and to know that the ordinary activities of life are achievable for me

As a group of my friends, who also need the use of **ACTS**, we can go out together shopping and socialising without feeling different or anxious that our transport would let us down. We have, sadly, all experienced in the past being let down by other inadequate taxi services.

In closing, I feel there are not enough ways to praise and thank **ACTS** for the quality of life **ACTS** have given us. Thanks to all the staff who work in **ACTS**.

Natalie Mooney, Blackrock



YOU RING ~ WE BOOK

We will ring you back to confirm.

It is important to book us 48 hours in advance.

We will make every effort to meet your full booking requirements.

Just call us now at **2921573**

or **2921574**

for more information



**OUR
8**

BUSES

with drivers
(top)

Jim, Richard,
Ricky & Mick
(bottom)

Joe, Gene,
Shane and
John.

**ALWAYS
AT YOUR
SERVICE**

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS

- Over 1,000 members on our Travel Club data base.
- 6 buses operating Monday - Friday, which gives us more scope to respond to your bookings across South and West of the City from 7am to 7pm, with 2-3 buses available each evening and at weekends.
- Doing up to 1500 passengers trips per month.
- Recruited two new drivers since the beginning of this year, namely John Roberts on the Ballinteer bus and Kevin Berry on the Tallaght bus.
- Recruited Emma Anderson in the office to take members bookings and deal with the scheduling of the bookings while linking with the drivers. Emma works Wednesday - Friday while she job shares with Peter who looks after the scheduling in first half of the week i.e. Monday -Wednesday
- Received good news from Pobal Community Services Programme in March that our 3 year application had been approved so that we can seek to continue to grow and develop the service, as this Pobal Programme is our main source of funding assistance since 1st January 2006.
- Seeking Government assistance meanwhile to meet our Capital Costs and to secure recognition as a Dial a Ride transport service for people with limited mobility and people with disabilities in

the South and West of the City.

- Just got the good news of some Capital Funding assistance to buy two new buses from the Disability Unit Department of Justice as up to now we had to rely on buying quality second hand buses in the UK.
- Started since the beginning of 2007 a Community Transport Project with the 15 seater Volkswagen Crafter in the RAPID Area of Loughlinstown-Shanganagh with our driver Gene for Local Groups.

However, our principal work is to respond to **your calls for bookings** to go to meetings, work, hospital appointments, social outings and to do our utmost to fulfil them. We aim to keep increasing the number of people using the service and benefiting from it 7 days a week. We are here to stay to respond to your very real transport needs for a safe, reliable, affordable and accessible transport, in a city where it is very difficult to get wheelchair Taxis or avail of low floor public transport.

You are welcome to contact me if you any queries, suggestions or gripes!

Gerry O'Brien, Manager Tel 2921573/4

PRESIDENT McALEESE SPEECH ON "DISABILITY & CONTEMPORARY IRELAND"

As a society we have been educated, over and over again, by the disabled themselves, who have unpacked our perceptions and prejudices and shown us just how wasteful and endlessly frustrating they are. It can be very difficult for people unfamiliar with disability to appreciate the unnecessary mountains the disabled have to climb, on an almost daily basis, mountains that could be levelled with a modicum of thought and of careful planning. Yet we know from the remarkable culture of voluntarism that flourishes in Ireland that there is such a passion for fairness, a passion to rectify injustice, a passion to put joy into life. These things tell us that the momentum for a society in which the disabled live lives as independent and fulfilled as is humanly possible is unstoppable because it is only when we arrive at that Ireland that we can say we have completed the ideal of our Republic.

This information was taken from President McAleese's speech on "Disability & Contemporary Ireland", at the AHEAD inaugural lecture series in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD, Dublin, Friday 8th June 2007, attended by one of our office staff, Micheál Doyle.

DUBLIN PORT TUNNEL FREE PASSAGE FOR DISABLED MOTORISTS

After some investigation and recent consultations with a fellow disability activist who contacted the National Roads Authority we can confirm that it is NRA policy to grant exempt passage through the Dublin Port Tunnel to disabled persons in specially adapted vehicle. This is whether the disabled person is driving or a passenger in the specially adapted vehicle. Identification cards for disabled drivers or disabled passengers issued by the Dublin Port Tunnel or by other Toll Road Operators will be accepted as valid forms of identification at the Dublin Port Tunnel.

This information was taken from Muscular Dystrophy Ireland Newsletter

RURAL ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT DETAILS

Below is a list of groups that provide wheelchair accessible transport in rural areas.
Given the difficulties many members face regarding transport, we thought that you might find this useful.

GROUP NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Borrisokane Area Rural Transport Project, Tipperary Clare Accessible Transport Kerry Community Transport Ltd Laois Transport for Rural Integration Programme Ltd Meath Accessible Transport Project Ltd North Fingal Rural Transport Company Ltd., Dublin Offaly and Kildare Community Transport Ltd Carlow, Kilkenny & South Tipperary South Riding Rural Transport Ltd County Limerick and North Cork Transport Group Ltd South Kildare Community Transport Ltd South Westmeath Rural Transport Ltd West Cork Rural Transport	Tel: 067 27088 Tel: 061 92431 Tel: 066 7147002 Tel: 057 8648699 Tel: 046 9074830 Tel: 01 8078855 Tel: 045 528124 Tel: 056 7790260 Tel: 069 78040 Tel: 045 895450 Tel: 090 6448670 Tel: 027 52727	lmduddy@eircom.net ecatfeakle@eircom.net alan@kerrytransport.ie laoistrip@eircom.net meathtransport@eircom.net northfingal@eircom.net okbus@oktransport.com ringalink@eircom.net chris@ruralbus.com kennolan@thekcp.ie swirta@eircom.net david@ruraltransport.ie

This information was taken from Pobal's website, whose mission is to promote social inclusion, reconciliation and equality through integrated social and economic development within communities. Pobal is a not-for-profit company with charitable status. For more information log on to <http://www.pobal.ie>