

Roscommon Lamb Festival runs from Wednesday, April 29th to Monday, May 4th



Gerry Fallon, Kathleen Shanagher, Joseph Kelly, Maria Harris, Maura Allen and Gerry Fallon at the launch of the Roscommon Lamb Festival.
Pic. Clare Frances Photography

New community bus service will be piloted in Castlerea

BY MAIRAD O'SHEA

A NEW COMMUNITY bus service will be piloted in Castlerea this week, which will offer a collect and connect service for people living on the outskirts of the town.

The service, which is provided by the National Transport Authority, through local link begins today, Tuesday and will pick up and drop off passengers at various locations around Castlerea town beginning at Cashel Park and taking in Castlehill, Golf View, The Fairways, Rian Rosan, Elm Fort, Springfield, Main Street, Barrack Street, Knockroe Park, Church Road, St Patrick's Street, Kiltewan Park, The Demesne and

Ballindrimley Road. The service will run from Monday to Friday from 8.55a.m. to 10.30a.m. and again in the afternoon from 1.55p.m. to 3.30p.m.. To avail of the service simply call 071 9650437 to book your seat. There is a €1 fare for adults while children aged 6-17 years are charged 50 cent per trip. Children from 0 to 5 years are free of charge. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Manager of Local Link, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon, Camilla Kelly, said that transport was an issue for many people living on the outskirts of the town in housing estates who needed to access schools or local shops. A need for the service was identified by

the Roscommon Women's Network office in Castlerea as Manager Nora Fahy explained: "RWN listened to the young mothers in housing estates who first identified this need in terms of getting to the schools, which are at the other side of the town 2km away in the rain and cold pushing small children in buggies etc. RWN arranged a meeting between two young mothers and Local Link and the meeting also took account of other needs identified like people at the other end of the town needing to get to the primary health care building."

Camilla Kelly, Manager of Local Link, urged people to use the service as the pilot service may be extended past June if the need was there. She also

noted that Local Link was interested in promoting similar type services in other rural towns in County Roscommon.

"People often think that rural transport has to mean you are living at the top of a hill out in the country but many people living in housing estates on the outskirts of towns are isolated from local services," said Ms Kelly.

"I would love to see this pilot service being available throughout the rural hinterland of Castlerea throughout the day and then coming back into the town at 4 or 5p.m. and there is that possibility if the need and demand is there so I would love to see people using the service," said Ms Kelly.