

## **CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD**

Kerry Community Transport Ltd. (KCT) is a strong dynamic, company which has grown from small beginnings to its current position as a major provider of vital transport in every parish in rural Kerry.

We currently operate 83 community Routes and Services along with 87 community contracts and carried 102,945 passengers in 2007. This is due to a convergence of many factors, the strong foundations laid by the original founders of KCT, the current board members who have build on these solid foundations and not least the committed, hard working and visionary staff.

Support has also come from Pobal, from the other transport companies, the local development companies as well as the state organisation like Health Services Executive, Kerry County Council, and others.

KCT has over the past number of years taken a twin track approach to the delivery of transport. We have sought to respond to the unmet transport needs of rural communities while also looking to demonstrate, new creative flexible solutions to the complex transport needs of specific marginalised groups e.g. Older People, Youth and People with Disabilities.

We have worked in partnership with private providers and state organisations to further these twin aims. While providing transport is, and will always be important, having a developmental approach we feel will in the long term be of greater benefit to the rural communities we serve. Examples include the work with St. John of God Services, Sean Chairde Older Persons Network, After School Facilities and Kerry Diocesan Youth Services.

Our new 2008-2010 strategic plan proposes the continuation of this twin track approach by extending the current level of community routes and community contracts while also proposing new pilot projects to meet specific needs. It is our fervent hope that the solutions we have found could become templates for further developments with additional resources.

We feel that KCT has improved the health and social gain and indeed the quality of lives of many, many people in rural Kerry. There have been other benefits beyond those individuals; quality of life in rural areas has improved due to the increased access afforded by improved transport.

Kerry Community Transport as a company look forward to another positive year for 2008 and beyond.

*Hilary Scanlan*

Chairperson