

SENRUG Press Release: 2nd January 2014

**SENRUG AWARDED HIGHLY COMMENDED STATUS FOR
BEST CAMPAIGN GROUP**

SENRUG, the group that campaigns for better rail transport in South East Northumberland, has stated it is delighted to have been awarded the “highly commended” category in the prestigious national Railfuture awards for the best local rail campaign group.

The award winners were announced at Railfuture's recent annual conference in Oxford by rail writer and Railfuture president Christian Wolmar, but as SENRUG was unable to be present at Oxford, the Certificate was presented to SENRUG by Trevor Watson, Chair of Railfuture North East branch, at a special ceremony at Morpeth Station on 22nd December 2013.

SENRUG is perhaps best known for its tireless campaign to see passenger rail services re-introduced on the Ashington Blyth & Tyne line with a regular service from Woodhorn and Ashington to Newcastle, providing access to jobs and helping to re-invigorate the local economy. But it also campaigns on a number of other fronts and in recent years has secured an improvement to the peak hour inter-city services at Morpeth and an enhancement to facilities at the station such as the recently installed Customer Information Screens.

Dennis Fancett, Chair of SENRUG, made the following comment on receiving the award: “We are delighted our campaigning efforts

have been recognised and the award is a tribute to everyone on our committee who gives up hours of their time voluntarily to make our organisation the success it is. But we are not complacent. There is still so much to achieve. In addition to pushing harder for faster progress on the ABT re-opening, we want to see the local rail service to Cramlington and Morpeth doubled to every 30 minutes, with an evening and Sunday service added, we need a north of Morpeth local service initially to Pegswood and Widdrington, we need Customer Information Systems at every station along the line and more inter-city off-peak services at Morpeth.”

Roger Blake, Railfuture Director and RUG Awards organiser said "The judging panel of four Railfuture Vice-Presidents wished to commend SENRUG for their steadfast determination in pursuit of their vision. The award gives due recognition to the substantial progress made by one of the most effective of such locally-based campaigns."

Trevor Watson, Chair of Railfuture North East branch, added: “This is a well earned award for SENRUG and it is particularly pleasing to see the efforts of groups in the north east of the country recognised in this way. I’m delighted their hard work came to the attention of the judging panel”.

SENRUG invite those who support their efforts to join the group and applications forms can be downloaded from www.senrug.co.uk. The Certificate presented to SENRUG is currently on display in the Ticket Office at Morpeth Station.

Ends (444 words)

Notes for Editors

Photo caption (please see separate jpeg file attached): SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett (left) receives the award from Railfuture North East Chair Trevor Watson, on 21st Dec 13 as the 11:49 Northern Rail service to MetroCentre arrives at the platform (ack SENRUG)

SENRUG is The South East Northumberland Rail User Group, a pro-rail campaign group that campaigns for better rail services for existing and potential passengers in South East Northumberland.

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