

SENRUG ORGANISES NORTH EAST MAYOR HUSTINGS MEETING

SENRUG - The group that campaigns for better rail services in South East and East Northumberland, is organising a hustings meeting with the different political candidates for the role of North East Mayor, in advance of the elections to be held on 2nd May.

The new Mayor will assume responsibility for the entire North East including public transport policy. Each candidate will give a short talk setting out their public transport priorities, after which there opportunity for questions from the floor. However, as this meeting is specifically about public transport policy, questions and discussions will be limited to this issue.

SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett stated “We welcome the establishment of the new mayoral region covering the entire North East, and widening the role to include public transport. Whoever is elected will have a key strategic responsibility for setting policy and priorities for transport in the North East. Whilst SENRUG itself is not politically aligned, and seeks to work constructively with all parties, we think it’s crucial that our members and the community as a whole are given opportunity to hear what each candidate stands for, so as to be better informed when deciding who to vote for.

Guy Renner-Thompson for the Conservative, Andrew Gray from the Green party, Jamie Driscoll the sitting Mayor who is standing as an independent, Aidan King for the Liberal-Democrats and Paul Donaghy from Reform UK have all advised they will be participating.

SENRUG is the group that has campaigned to bring back passenger trains between Newcastle and Ashington – a 19-year campaign that is now finally being delivered. The group are also campaigning for other rail services and improvements, and details are listed at the campaign section of www.senrug.co.uk.

The hustings meeting is to be held at Morpeth Town Hall, NE61 1LZ, on Thursday 11th April 2024, from 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome and refreshments will be available.

Ends (312 words)

Notes for Editors

SENRUG – The South East Northumberland Rail User Group - is a voluntary pro rail campaign group: contact Dennis Fancett, Chair, tel 07810 353651, e: chair@senrug.co.uk. www.senrug.co.uk

Labour Party candidate Kim McGuinness has been invited to participate but has advised she is unable to attend, and no representative from the Labour Party is available to speak on her behalf. Aidan King (Liberal-Democrat) has advised he is on call for his work on the night, but if unable to attend, a representative will speak on his behalf.

Journalists are welcome to attend the meeting. We invite journalists to make themselves known to the SENRUG Chair prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Attached / below is SENRUG's publicity poster for the meeting.



PUBLIC MEETING

AT

MORPETH TOWN HALL

Market Place, Morpeth, NE61 1LZ.

THURSDAY 11th APRIL 2024 at 7.30 pm

WITH GUEST SPEAKERS

NORTHEAST MAYOR ELECTION CANDIDATES



Guy Renner-Thompson (Conservative)

Andrew Gray (Green)

Jamie Driscoll (Independent – sitting Mayor)

Aidan King (Liberal-Democrat)

Paul Donaghy (Reform UK)

Kim McGuinness the Labour Party candidate was invited but has indicated she is unable to attend and no representative is available to speak on her behalf. Aidan King has is "on call" for his work with the NHS and will either attend in person or a representative from the Liberal-Democrat party will speak on his behalf.

The new Mayor will assume responsibility for the entire North East including public transport policy. Each candidate will give a short talk setting out their public transport manifesto, after which there will be some questions from the floor. Questions will be restricted to public transport and related issues.

Admission Free. * All Welcome. * Refreshments.

SEN RUG – THE SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND RAIL USER GROUP

www.senrug.co.uk - www.facebook.com/SEN RUG