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NER MANAGERS AT MORPETH MEETING.

Senior Managers from train company LNER are coming to Morpeth on Thursday 20th November, to talk about developments within the company, and in particular, the new timetable that comes into operation two weeks later, from 14th December.

Northumberland stations such as Morpeth and Berwick lose out under the new timetable, with a reduction in LNER services at these stations. But the company is increasing the number of services between Newcastle and London from 2 to 3 each way per hour.

Malcolm Knight, Head of Operational Planning, and Ed Turner, Senior Public Affairs Manager from LNER will be the speakers at the meeting, which will be hosted by SENUG, the voluntary group campaigning for better rail services in Northumberland and beyond. Both SENUG members and non-members alike are welcome at the meeting, which starts at 7.30 pm at Morpeth Town Hall, with tea and coffee from 7.15.

In addition to talking about the new timetable, and some of the difficult decisions and compromises that had to be made to achieve the timetable's objectives, Malcolm and Ed will talk about other developments and innovations across the LNER network, and what we might expect as the rail industry transitions into GBR. There will be the usual time for questions and answers after Malcolm and Ed's presentations.

SENUG Chair Dennis Fancett said "We appreciate Malcolm and Ed giving up their evening to come and speak to us. We all acknowledge aspects of the timetable are controversial, but a better understanding of the objectives, constraints and opportunities for future improvements will help us in our campaign work. Additionally, LNER is not just the timetable, and we look forward to hearing about some of the other positive developments within the company that are happening or planned. I do hope people will take this opportunity to come and meet LNER managers in person."

More information on SENUG and its pro-rail campaigning work, including its success with the Northumberland line, at www.senrug.co.uk.

Ends (324 words)

Notes for Editors:

SENUG – Campaigning for Better Rail Services in Northumberland and Beyond - is a voluntary pro rail campaign group: contact Dennis Fancett, Chair, tel 07810 353651, e: chair@senrug.co.uk. www.senrug.co.uk.

Photo caption: An LNER Azuma train pulls in to Morpeth Station. Credit Geoff Stainthorpe.

