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3rd September 2015

Mr Steven Mason
The Chief Executive
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

Dear Mr Mason

Relocation of Cramlington Railway Station

I'm writing to let you know SENRUG is today launching its campaign to re-locate Cramlington railway station 200 metres to the south, so that it is adjacent to the pedestrian and cycle underpass to Manor Walks Shopping Centre. The new station site would be in the centre of the town rather than the current inaccessible location in Nelson Village. Adjacent land could be used for a bus station creating an integrated bus / rail interchange. Additionally, there is space on current council land for a much larger station car park with better access from the main highway.

Details of the campaign can be found on our website and the text is also attached.

SENRUG is the South East Northumberland Rail User Group, a voluntary group that campaigns for better rail services in this area both for existing and potential passengers. By 'potential', SENRUG means those who would use rail services if only the trains went where they want to go, at the time they want to go, at a price they can afford, and in a clean, safe, secure, accessible and easy to understand manner.

SENRUG has already been successful in securing a commitment to an evening and Sunday service on the line (to be introduced as part of the next franchise), we have successfully

campaigned for both platform lifts and CIS screens at Morpeth, and CIS screens will be installed at Cramlington in the near future. Our campaign to re-open the Newcastle – Ashington line has now been adopted by Better Transport as their number 1 national priority. We are a highly respected campaign group with an increasing national profile. We believe that with appropriate backing and leadership from Northumberland County Council, our campaign to re-locate Cramlington Station has every chance of success.

SENRUG estimates that re-siting the station at Cramlington would cost in the region of £10m. However, land around the existing station site could be released for housing development and we believe there is also the possibility of DfT new station funding, European funding, Section 106 funding (we understand the land immediately to the west of the new station site has been earmarked for further housing development) and contributions from other stakeholders who would benefit such as Manor Walks and the bus companies.

The Cramlington Development Trust is aware of and strongly supports this campaign. This initiative also compliments our existing campaign to see a doubling of train service frequency at Cramlington through extension of Trans Pennine Express services which currently terminate at Newcastle on to Cramlington and Morpeth

We hope Northumberland County Council will strongly support and indeed steer this campaign through the Network Rail process and SENRUG is available to work closely with and support the Council to achieve this objective.

I would be grateful if you would let me know whether the Council will indeed make this one of its objectives.

Kindest Regards

Dennis Fancett

Chair, SENRUG: The South East Northumberland Rail User Group

Campaigning for better rail services in South East Northumberland

www.senrug.co.uk

Re-open the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line:

Hirst Park Middle School in Ashington won SENRUG's Schools' competition to create a 7-10 minute DVD setting out their reasons for re-opening the line. See their winning DVD here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FThHXmIO6S0&list=UUhvolzTGcXIU-o62euglwSg>