

SENRUG Press Release: 7th September 2015

SENRUG Launches 2 New Campaigns For Newcastle – Morpeth Railway

SENRUG, the group that campaigns for better rail services in South East Northumberland, has today launched 2 new campaigns for local train services on the Newcastle to Morpeth Line.

Firstly, SENRUG is calling for Cramlington Station to be moved 200 yards to the south, adjacent to the pedestrian and cycle path subway under the road into the Manor Walks Shopping Centre, where there is an existing pedestrian footbridge over the railway tracks to Beacon Hill.

The new station site would be central to Cramlington, provide easy access to Manor Walks shops, and allow an adjacent bus station to be constructed providing an integrated transport interchange. A larger station car park with easy access from the main highway could also be built. The campaign compliments SENRUG's existing call for train frequency at Cramlington to be doubled by extended the TransPennine Express services on from Newcastle to Cramlington and Morpeth. The next Northern Rail franchise already specifies that an evening and Sunday service must be provided.

Secondly, SENRUG proposes a new station should be built at Killingworth at the point where the line passes under the A1056 Killingworth Way. The new station would be served by the local train services running between MetroCentre / Newcastle and Morpeth / Chathill, currently an hourly service but with evening and Sunday service due to be added with the new franchise, starting in 2016.

The new station would serve the existing community of Killingworth less than a quarter of a mile to the east and a major new housing development on the west side of the station site. The current population of Killingworth, excluding the new housing development is 49,000 yet the nearest Metro station at Palmersville is 2.6 miles or a 50 minute walk from the proposed Killingworth station site. From Palmersville, it is an 18 minute journey to Central Newcastle. This would be reduced to 8 minutes on the heavy rail service from the new station at Killingworth

SENRUG estimates both projects would cost about £10m but believes that contributions could be obtained from the DfT new stations fund, European funding and contributions from adjacent housing developers. At Cramlington, some land at the old station site could be sold for housing to help fund the costs of the new transport interchange.

SENRUG is asking Northumberland and North Tyneside County Councils respectively to lead each project and is offering its support. SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett said: "For too long we have been lacking any kind of vision for developing and enhancing rail services in this area. We are watching new projects come on stream in other parts of the country but nothing happens here. These new campaigns, along with our persistence in campaigning for the re-instatement of passenger services on the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line, can change all of that. It is time for local authorities to provide strong leadership and vision, and to think 'rail'"

SENRUG wants people who support its campaigns to join the group, whose annual membership is just £5 per year. Membership forms and full details of both of its proposals can be found at www.senrug.co.uk.

Ends (516 words)

Notes For Editors

SENUG 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.

Move Cramlington Station campaign at <http://www.senrug.co.uk/MoveCramlingtonStation.php>

New Station at Killingworth campaign at <http://www.senrug.co.uk/NewStationatKillingworth.php>

Enquiries: SENUG Chair Dennis Fancett, Tel 01670 825500, Mob 07810 353651, email chair@senrug.co.uk, web www.senrug.co.uk. Facebook www.facebook.com/SENUG