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ANOTHER AWARD FOR RAIL CAMPAIGN GROUP

SENRUG – The group that campaigns for better rail services in South East Northumberland – has won another prestigious award for its rail campaigning activities.

Railfuture, the national independent pro-rail organisation, gave SENRUG "Highly Commended" status in it's Best Rail User Group Website 2017" Competition.

Accepting the award at a ceremony at the Principal Hotel in York, Dennis Fancett, Chair of SENRUG said: "I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of SENRUG, which recognises the hundreds of hours of volunteer time we put into keeping our website up to date and fresh. We are particularly pleased to have partnered with a local web design company - Widescope of Blyth – who understand our campaigns and have a strong focus on wanting to support the local community here in South East Northumberland. The Widescope team have always been helpful and there when we've needed them.

Allison Cosgrove, Railfuture Director and Head of Passenger Group said "SENRUG is a very active organisation which really punches above its weight in terms of results achieved for the communities in the North East, and the increase in services can be directly attributed to their campaigning work. Their website is an essential part of spreading that message which they do clearly and succinctly. Congratulations to Dennis and his team for what they have achieved".

Steve Bradley, Owner of Widescope commented: "SENRUG exemplifies our love of working with local community groups: dedication, hard work and a passion for

making life better for others in the region. Congratulations SENRUG - always focused, never off track."

Next weekend sees the start of a new rail timetable delivering Sunday services at Cramlington and a 66% increase in the number of CrossCountry trains that call at Morpeth. SENRUG are holding a public meeting at Morpeth Town Hall on Thursday 7th December with a guest speaker from CrossCountry, starting at 19:30. The meeting is open to everyone, with tea and coffee available before, and those attending will hear about improvements and innovations across the CrossCountry network.

Ends (333 Words)

Notes for Editors

SENRUG – The South East Northumberland Rail User Group - is a voluntary pro rail campaign group: contact Dennis Fancett Chair, tel 01670 825500 or 07810 353651, e: <u>chair@senrug.co.uk</u>. <u>www.senrug.co.uk</u>

Railfuture is the national, independent campaign group for a better passenger and freight rail network. National media spokesperson Bruce Williamson, tel: 0117 927 2954, mob: 07759 557 389, e: media@railfuture.org.uk

Contact details for Widescope are Steve Bradley, tel: 01670 542854, mobile: 07834513537, email: <u>admin@widescope.net</u>

Suggested photo caption: "Allison Cosgrove, one of Railfuture's Directors presents the award to Dennis Fancett, Chair of SENRUG."

