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SENUG WELCOMES RAIL EXPANSION EXPERT TO NORTHUMBERLAND

SENUG – The group that campaigns for better rail services in South East Northumberland - is extremely pleased to welcome **Ian Brown CBE FCILT** as its guest speaker for its public meeting at Morpeth Town Hall at 19:30 pm on Thursday 1st November.

Ian had a career with British Rail up to privatisation and was a constant campaigner for the developing railway. After various operational and commercial jobs, he was appointed Service Group Manager for the West Coast, Cross Country and Midland Main Lines, and Regional Chief Passenger Manager, London Midland Region.

He then joined the Chairman's Policy Unit on restructuring freight and his final British Rail job was MD Railfreight Distribution and Freightliners Ltd with the task of providing freight services through the Channel Tunnel.

Following privatisation Ian was appointed CEO of the Docklands Light Railway with the remit to undertake extension projects and privatise the operation. A later project was in the team setting up Transport for London (TfL) and he became TfL's MD London Rail responsible for London Tramlink, DLR, the London Overground project and joint sponsor of Crossrail.

He retired from TfL in 2011 and was awarded a CBE "for services to the rail industry". He has been on the Boards of Crossrail and Abellio (Abellio now run Scotrail) and now has his own International rail consultancy company, as well as serving as Policy Director for Railfuture, the national independent pro-rail campaign group, where he continues to campaign for a bigger and better railway.

SENUG Chair Dennis Fancett said "It is not often that SENUG is able to attract a speaker of such high calibre and I know this is going to be a very enjoyable and

stimulating evening. The meeting is open to both SENRUG Members and non-members though we hope that those who support our local rail campaigns will join SENRUG. Ultimately, the more people we speak for, the louder our voice is heard.”

Ends (320 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: chair@senrug.co.uk. www.senrug.co.uk

Railfuture is the national voluntary independent campaign group that campaigns for a bigger and better railway. See www.railfuture.org.uk and www.railfuture.org.uk/Ian+Brown+CBE

Suggested photo caption: Ian Brown CBE FCILT with the CrossRail Tunnel Boring Machines at Canary Wharf. Local campaigners want rail investment in Northumberland too.

