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RAIL USER GROUP (RUG) AWARDS 2014

Roger Blake Railfuture Director and Awards Organiser

RAIL	USER	GROUP	ANNUAL	AWARDS	
Organised by <i>Railfuture</i>			Promoting Britain's Railway		For <i>our</i> future
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RUG AWARDS JUDGING PANEL

Performed by some of the Railfuture Vice Presidents

Roger Ford mentioned his involvement in his November "Informed Sources"

"As an honorary Vice-President of Railfuture I get invited to join the judging panel for their annual awards. These include categories for things like user group newsletters and web-sites and, for the first time this year, a photographic competition.

One entry was a super picture of a Deltic in full flight, leaning to the curve at the head of a charter train. Did it win? My lips are sealed."



Roger Ford, Transport Journalist of the Year, Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport

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RUG AWARDS PRESENTATION

Five awards this year presented by

Christian Wolmar Railfuture President





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Award No. 1

Best Website

Silver Award – 2 Joint Winners

Judges' comments:

"both well reflect their particular local community's issues"

Gold Award

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BEST WEB-SITE Silver Award 1

www.trains4deal.com/ and http://trains4kentcoast.co.uk

Trains4KentCoast

Promoting The New High Speed Loop Trains Between London And East Kent, Starting In 2015

82 mins from London! About the new loop...

Starting in January 2015, hourly High Speed Javelin trains between London and Dover will extend round the coast to Faversham (then back to London) - giving many "firsts":



HELP US KEEP UP THE FIGHT

Victory! Deal and Sandwich to get hourly

HS1 services plus new Kent coast rounder

PACKED MEETING SHOWS SUPPORT, CONCERN AND DETERMINATION



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BEST WEB-SITE Silver Award 2

South East Northumberland RUG

www.senrug.co.uk



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Our Campaigns

Re-Open Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line

Newcastle - Cramlington - Morpeth Local Service

More Intercity Trains at Morpeth

North of Morpeth Local Service

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Station Facilities

Bus/Rail Integration

Simpler Fares

How We Campaign & What We've Achieved

JOIN US Help Us To Help You

Add your voice to ours



Email, Phone or Facebook SENRUG

Newsletters

Chairman's Blog

Press Releases

COMPLAIN

Or Comment about a Station or Journey





Useful Contacts and Other Groups



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AUTUMN 2014 CONFERENCE - LONDON

Documents We've Issued

BEST WEB-SITE Gold Award



Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association

http://srta.org.uk

Useful Links

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Sevenoaks Departures Board
- Engineering Work
- January 2015 timetable
- 401 bus timetable
- 452 bus timetable
- Centaur Coach timetable
- Other Regional Rail Groups

There are about 4.8 million passenger journeys a year to and from the Sevenoaks area, according to the latest ORR data.

<u>Judges'</u> comments:

"easy to navigate, relevant and engaging with latest news, a rail user's one-stop shop"

"Meet the Manager" at Sevenoaks Station

There is a special "Meet the Manager" event at Sevenoaks station between 1630 and 1830 on Monday 27 October. This event is intended to focus on passengers' concerns about the London Bridge rebuilding programme and the changes to rail services from 22 December.

(Still) no news on London Bridge ticket flexibility

From

CONDON TERMINALS

SEVENDAKS .

Posted on 20 October 2014 by Secretary

During the London Bridge rebuilding services will be overcrowded. Sevenoaks passengers need the flexibility to get onto any London train they can, and then use tubes or buses to get to their normal station. Yet despite years of planning for the engineering work, Southeastern, Transport for London and the

Department for Transport have still not sorted out this vital detail.



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Award No. 2

Best Newsletter

CommendationSilver AwardGold Award

@Railfuture www.railfuture.org.uk



BEST NEWSLETTER Commendation

Friends of the West Highland Lines <u>www.westhighlandline.org.uk</u> [newsletters not available online]

Judges' comments: "a quality magazine"



the ONLY magazine spotlighting the WEST HIGHLAND LINES past and present plus SCOTRAIL NETWORK and ON THE WATERFRONT



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BEST NEWSLETTER Silver Award

South East Northumberland RUG

www.senrug.co.uk

[newsletters online]

Newsletters

Click on the link below to download any of our Newsletters as a pdf document.

If you would like to submit ideas or comments for a future Newsletter, or simply give feedback as to whether you like the latest issue, found it interesting or not, use the Contact Us page to contact our Newsletter Editor

Newsletter 24		
Newsletter 23		
Newsletter 22		
Newsletter 2 ⁴		
Newsletter 20		
Newsletter 19		
Newsletter 18		
Newsletter 1		

Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Update

By Dennis Fancett



NORTHUMBERLAND County Council finally held its Stakeholder Meeting on the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line Re-opening Project, a move SENRUG had been pressing them to make for some time - on 27th May 2014. Committee Member Andrew Carmichael represented SENRUG.



THE Department for Transport is now consulting on the specifications for the new Northern and TransPennine Express rail franchises, which will start from February 2016. The new franchises will run for 8-10 and 7-9 years respectively.

The franchise specifications include the minimum train service and facilities the new train operator must legally provide. It is therefore vitally important that requirements for better rail services in South East Northumberland are included in the DfT specifications. The consultation represents a once in a decade opportunity to win a better rail service for this area.

These franchises cover a significant geographical area and the DIT is likely to receive conflicting and competing demands from a number of sources. SENRUG is urging as many statutory and stakeholder groups and other interested parties to respond to the consultation. SENRUG's own bold proposals were set out in Newsletter 21 Summer 2013 (page 2) - available at www.senrus.co.uk. SENRUG has also produced a separate leaflet setting out its aspirations.

The consultation document is on the DfT website* and along with both an email and postal response address.

received by 17th August 2014.

Local Schools get For both the recent East Coast and CrossCountry franchise consultations. Northumberland County Council did not make any response directly to the DfT and in

involved with the campaign to re-ope the Ashington, Blytl and Tyne line each case the new specification

subsequently published by the DFT called for fewer services than this region currently had. We now have a new transport policy team at the Council and they have assured us they will be submitting a robust response to the DfT. SENRUG is also urging other organisations to do the same to maximise the chances of securing real service Improvements in South East Northumberland.

*See www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-ofnorthern and transpenning express rail-franches esponses can be sent to: NorthernTPEconsultation2014(2)dft.ssl.sov.uk or to the postal address given in the document itself.



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BEST NEWSLETTER Gold Award

Huddersfield, Penistone & Sheffield RUA [no web-site]

Judges' comments: "engaging, deals with range of topics, addressed to wider community and explains in lay terms, passes 'the platform test'!"

No.80 Summer 2014 뜏 The second New Northern franchise 22 consultation suggests reductions for lightly used stations and routes The Parameters for Transport secting through the Rall Research same with Rall North has a statistic and offing skip stores results of issued a consultation document for both of the spectra statistic and offin the spectra statistic and the spectra stati

the new Northern and Transpennine franchises. These are expected to start in February 2016, but the care-wom Pacer trains may finally be replaced. The consultation document states that "bidders will be required to include plans, either in their core proposition or as an

will be let separately and not as one giant franchise as had been at first thought. option, which would enable the withdrawal of all Pacer units The numous of the consultation is to inform stakeholders of from Northern services" ed process and timescales for awarding the TPE and But phrases such as "the need to secure best-possible value forthern franchises, to advise stakeholders of the objectives for the taxpayer and farepayer" give a strong hint that and expectations for the franchises and to give stakeholders operating subsidies will have to fall or fares have to rise. an opportunity to comment on the requirements that might be included in the specifications and the options that might The function of each train service will be assessed in relation to the community and economy it serves, additions or

eductions to the service being evaluated. In doing this the A close inspection of the proposals for the Northern government's aim is to improve the overall value for money delivered by the franchise while protecting the key purposes franchise does not give passengers the confidence that great improvements will result for the new franchise. In contrast met by the service and recognising the constraints on the recent awards for franchises in the south of England, available public funding. the Rail Executive are seeking, amongst other aspects, to However, the document goes on to say that "we are not find trade offer which will reduce the need to subsidice th

ering line or station closures within this review of th More on pages four and five

er of the Huddersfield Peni



verseas companies dominate the three bids for the next Northern franchise after the Department for Transport announced in August the three companies shortlisted to run the Northern franchise and the three that are being considered for the TransPennine Express franchise. All of the companies have successfully passed the prequalification stage, and will now be asked to develop their plans for the franchises before they receive the government's invitation to tender in December.

Bidders will be expected to show how they will make the most of the £1 billion investment programme for the rail network in the north of England, which will provide faster and more reliable journeys, more capacity, better trains and improved connections for passengers across the region. The shortlisted bidders to run the two franchises are:

Northern:

Abellio Northern Ltd. Arriva Rail North Limited and Govia Northern Limited.

TransPennine Express:

First TransPennine Express Limited, Keolis/Go-Ahead Limited and Stagecoach Trans Pennine Express Trains Limited.

Abellio runs rail and bus services in three countries: UK, Germany and The Netherlands. It was established in 2001 by NS, the Dutch national rail company. It is currently a 50per cent partner in Northern Rail.

Arriva was the previous holder of the Northern franchise and did much to improve on the appalling record of Northern Spirit who held it previously. Arriva is a fully owned arm of Deutsche Bahn, the German state railway,

Govia is a joint venture between Go-Ahead Group (65%) and Keolis 35%, the latter being a subsidiary of SNCF, the French state railway.

Go-Ahead Chief Executive, David Brown, said: "We welcome the government's endorsement and look forward to submitting strong bids, working collaboratively with our industry partners and seeking to meet the aspirations of stakeholders "

More on paper two, four and five

Newsletter of the Huddersfield Penistone Sheffield Rail Users Association



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Award No. 3

Best Campaign

Gold Award

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BEST CAMPAIGN Winner

Trains for Deal/Kent Coast <u>www.trains4deal.com/</u> and <u>http://trains4kentcoast.co.uk</u>

Judges' comments: "success in achieving key goal and identifies next steps to continue campaign" Campaign coverage on ITV Meridian – Tom Rowland interviewed from Deal station





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Award No. 4

<u>New Group</u> – Oliver Lovell Award

in memory of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group founder who died in 2013

Commendation

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NEW GROUP Winner

Friends of the Brigg & Lincoln Lines http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofbrigg-lincolnlines

[with Gainsborough Rail & Bus Group http://grab.eavb.co.uk/]

Judges' comments: "deserves recognition, look forward to hearing more in development of this local campaign."



Beirut would hate to be compared to this...

nd so what many of us have known for years is now official - Gainsh egh Central has A centleman called As ww Dowd, who has visit e effections and travelle iss the UK, confirmed entral was the worst he has coverienced on the British It's a new low for a static hat in the past has been co pared to war-torn Beirut by Personally, Labores fe at was way too harsh Too barsh on Reind e of the Dovy James lette his week succests, nerhane town is missing out on a



Friends Of The Brigg & Lincoln Lines



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Award No. 5

Judges' Special Award

Highly Commended

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JUDGES' SPECIAL AWARD Winner

SENRUG Schools competition

http://www.senrug.co.uk/2014SchoolsCompetition.php

and winning entry from Hirst Park Middle School.

Judges' comments "quality campaigning engaging younger generation using one form of social media. This and another entry point to a new Awards category next year! "

In Spring 2014, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Closure of the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line to passenger services, SENRUG organised a competition amongst local schools to create a 7 to 10 minute DVD setting out their business case for re-opening the line





The winning team from Hirst Park Middle School, with SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett and Chair of The Arch Group Cllr Dave Ledger - News Post Leader / Morpeth Herald



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