

Section 3: About Your Organisation

Name of Organisation

SENRUG (The South East Northumberland Rail User Group)

What type of organisation are you? (please tick)

Registered Charity

Unregistered community group/Club/Society

Other (please state)

Do you have a set of rules or a constitution? (please tick)
(please supply a copy if this is your first application to BTC)

Yes

No

Where does your organisation work? (please tick)

Just in the Berwick, Tweedmouth
and/or Spittal area

Regionally in the North East
and/or Southern Scotland

Throughout Northumberland

Nationally

For the most recent financial year please state:

Income: £790.40

Expenditure: £1,851.91

Year End Balance: £6,096.37

What does your organisation do:

SENRUG is a voluntary organisation that promotes rail travel and campaigns for better rail services in, within, to, from and through South East and East Northumberland, representing the interests of both existing and potential rail travellers in the area.

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.

How many people take part in your activities each year?

SENRUG has 211 members and 1,710 Facebook followers (figures as at end May 2024). We hold approximately 3 public meetings a year, and between 20 and 50 people attend each public meeting

How many people are involved in your organisation? (Committee, volunteers, paid staff)

SENRUG has 11 committee members and 2 others involved in publicising SENRUG's work at exhibitions, who are not committee members.

Section 4: Your Project

Describe your project (Continue on a separate sheet as necessary; include any drawings or plans of your project that will help explain what it is about)

SENRUG is seeking a contribution towards its project costs for the next 5 years which include operation of and updates to its website, production and printing of approximately 12 full colour 8-page A4 newsletters, and design and printing of a DL sized leaflet (A4 folded into 3) printed full colour front and back.

This project will allow SENRUG to continue to attract new members and keep its campaign activities in the public eye, in turn helping us achieve our campaign objectives which include:

- An hourly each way local service between Newcastle and Berwick, calling at all stations, plus stations such as Belford re-opened.
- Upgrading the semi-fast TransPennine Express service between Newcastle and Edinburgh to hourly each way, augmenting it to call at additional Northumberland stations such as Berwick, and re-connecting this to the Liverpool – Newcastle service (as was originally promised from December 2019), to provide direct connections from Northumberland to Manchester and other locations.
- Defending the services we already have such as the ticket offices at Morpeth, Alnmouth and Berwick, and continuing to fight proposed timetable cuts resulting from the East Coast Main Line timetable revision proposals.
- Extensions to the Northumberland Line, including Morpeth – Bedlington, Ashington to Woodhorn and Newbiggin, a station at Seghill, and development of the Ashington – Butterwell – Alnmouth link for both passenger and freight.
- A Blyth Town Centre to Airport rail link, including a new Metro interchange station at Benton East to allow interconnection with local services on the East Coast Main Line, significantly improving public transport access from Berwick and north Northumberland to Newcastle Airport.

Why is it needed? (include details of any research you have carried out to identify the need 2and describe any specific benefits for the people of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal)

SENRUG wants to see the economies of Northumberland's market towns and villages re-vitalised by offering better and faster public transport connections between Northumberland communities, to the cities of Edinburgh, Newcastle and beyond, improving access to jobs, education and leisure. We want to see the tourism and leisure industry developed in an environmentally sustainable way by developing train services with bus-rail integration along Northumberland's coast.

How will you measure the success of your project?

Ultimately, we measure the success of our projects by whether the new rail services we seek are actually delivered. However the sad reality is obtaining better rail services takes an incredibly long time (eg 19 years campaigning for the Northumberland Line) so in the shorter term we measure success by the profile SENRUG has achieved through press coverage, invitations to participate in TV News programmes and quotes in printed media etc. We also measure success by noting that threatened service cuts such as reduction to Berwick Station ticket office opening hours, and reductions in train service frequency have not so far been implanted – though we know such proposals will re-surface and we must continue to fight them.

What is the total Cost of your project?

PLEASE PROVIDE A PROJECT BUDGET £3,461

Have you asked any other organisation for help to fund the project?
If yes, please give details below

Yes



No



Organisation	Amount Requested	Outcome
West Bedlington Town Council	£500	Approved
Ashington Town Council	£500	Decision awaited
Cramlington Town Council	£500	Decision awaited
Blyth Town Council	£1,000	Decision awaited
Morpeth Town Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
East Bedlington Parish Council	£500	Decision awaited
Seaton Valley Parish Council	£500	Decision awaited
Choppington Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
Pegswood Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
Widdrington Station & Stobswood Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
Wooler Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
Acklington Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
Adderstone with Lucker Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
Beadnell Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited
North Sunderland Parish Council	No specific amount	Decision awaited

Section 4: Your Project

What will the Town Council grant be used for?

Here you should list either individual items you want the Town Council to help pay for e.g. Toilets or insurance or areas of expenditure you want help with e.g. printing or publicity. Do not provide a list of unrelated items and a single cost for them all.

Item	Cost	Purchase or Hire	Town Council Contribution
Website hosting, maintenance and update support (£1,475 pa + VAT fixed price for 5 years – see attached quote)	£1,771	Purchase	£256
Newsletter Printing (12 issues at average cost £98, based on price of last 3 8-page Newsletters (nos 38, 41 & 42) – see attached invoices)	£1,180	Purchase	£170
New Campaign Leaflet (Based on price as at March 2024 for design and print 2,500 copies of last leaflet – see attached invoice)	£510	Purchase	£74
Total requested from the Town Council This amount must not exceed £2500			£500

How will you publicise the Town Council's assistance (for example at the event and/or in publicity or other material)

The contribution will be acknowledged by a note on our website homepage which will remain for 5 years, and by an acknowledgement in an upcoming Newsletter.

What will happen if you are not given funding at this time?

SENRUG will prioritise the continuation of its website until funds run out, but will curtail Newsletters and the new leaflet. If however SENRUG is unable to attract new members through its publicity and media profile then ultimately the organisation will have to wind itself up and its campaigning activities will cease.