

ALNMOUTH RAIL USERS GROUP - CONSTITUTION

(as agreed at 20 June 2005 Annual General Meeting)

This constitution supersedes the memorandum of agreement established in February 2002

1. NAME

1.1 The name of the group is Alnmouth Rail Users Group (ARUG) referred to in this constitution as 'ARUG' or 'the group'.

2. AIMS

2.1 ARUG exists to provide a forum for rail users and other interested parties concerning the operation of and improvements to rail services principally to and from Alnmouth, but also Chathill, Acklington and Widdrington in North Northumberland along with the destination stations served along the Edinburgh, Berwick, Newcastle and stations south corridor.

2.2 ARUG will continue to develop working relationships with Department for Transport Rail, Network Rail, Train Operating Companies, Members of Parliament, Statutory bodies such as Rail Passenger Committee's, Local Authorities, the Strategic Rail Authority and other agencies to identify, lobby and pass on concerns and proposals for improvement to local and intercity rail services.

2.3 ARUG will campaign for improved rail services for Alnmouth and North Northumberland and represent the concerns, opinions and aspirations of rail-users and would be rail-users. The group will seek :

- 2.3.1 to maintain mainline services to and from Alnmouth.
 - 2.3.2 to improve services generally.
 - 2.3.3 to obtain later evening services.
 - 2.3.4 to improve reliability, punctuality and safety.
 - 2.3.5 Better stations, facilities, access and customer information.
 - 2.3.6 to liaise with and in partnership with other Rail User Groups where common problems, goals, campaign issues and aspirations exist.
 - 2.3.7 to foster and encourage integrated public transport.
- 2.4 ARUG will organise activities and events to achieve these objectives by:
- 2.4.1 Promoting the line and services available.
 - 2.4.2 Lobbying Central Government, the Strategic Rail Authority, Local Authorities, and other relevant groups for improvements in service provision and performance.
 - 2.4.3 Collecting information on service performance, station facilities, attitude(s) of staff, opinions of users and communities affected by the services provided.
 - 2.4.4 Promoting rail services and patronage throughout North Northumberland.
- 2.5 The group will maintain links with other rail campaign groups and public transport groups where there is mutual benefit.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership of ARUG will be open to all members of the public interested in or concerned with the operation of, or improvement to railways and rail services in Alnmouth and North Northumberland, whether resident in the area or not. An annual subscription charge may be set (if agreed) at the Annual General Meeting.

4. OFFICERS

A committee comprising the following officers and at least two ordinary members shall be elected annually at the group's Annual General Meeting:

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

The committee will serve until the next AGM (other than by mutual agreement) when all posts will be reviewed and open for election. The committee may co-opt other members with relevant expertise, e.g. in publicity, web site, marketing, etc.

Sub-groups or sub-committees may be appointed in the event of these being advantageous to the operation of the group and its aims. A representative of the sub-group or sub-committee will be invited to attend and will report back to main committee meetings.

5. MEETINGS

All meetings will be noted or minuted in writing and these will be made available to members of the group.

The main committee will meet as required and at least four monthly. Such meetings will have a quorum of at least two officers and one ordinary member. Other members may be invited if appropriate.

Sub-groups and sub-committees will meet as required.

ARUG will hold public meetings as required to further the group's purpose, report and provide feed-back and dialogue with the members of the group. From time to time as appropriate invited guests may also be invited to attend public meetings to assist in these activities.

Decisions of policy will be made by a consensus of those members present. In the event of a vote a simple majority of those present will be required except where a change to the constitution is being proposed when a two-thirds majority will be required. In the event of a tie the Chair will have a second and final casting vote.

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting will be convened by the Secretary on the direction of the committee or as soon as practicable after receipt of a written request to that effect from 20% of the membership.

Three members will constitute a quorum for meetings and six (including two officers) for Annual General Meetings.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Annual General Meetings will be held in the first half of every year with no less than 14 days notice given in advance by email, hand bill and / or posters at Alnmouth railway station. It will be open to all members of the public.

The Annual General Meeting will receive and comment on

- Reports from the Chair & Secretary
- Financial report from the Treasurer

The Annual General Meeting will elect the committee for the ensuing year as detailed above.

7. FINANCE

All monies raised by, or on behalf of , ARUG will be used to further the aims of the group.

The treasurer will be responsible for keeping up to date accounts of income and expenditure, which will be made available at each meeting.

The Treasurer will be responsible for producing for the Annual General Meeting a set of audited accounts for the previous financial year.

8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any proposal to vary the constitution in any way must be made in writing to the Secretary who is required to inform members of the proposal at least 14 days before the meeting at which it will be considered. Any proposed alteration or amendment must have the support of at least two-thirds of members present at the meeting at which the proposal is considered.

9. WINDING UP

The process of winding up the group will be instituted only if a resolution to this effect is carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the valid votes cast at an Annual General Meeting or Extra-ordinary General Meeting. Any outstanding monies and assets will be transferred to a neighbouring Rail User Group or a local organisation with similar objectives.

CONSTITUTION RATIFIED BY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 20 June 2005

Chairman:

Secretary:

Treasurer: