#### Rural Community Rail Chester-Shrewsbury Community Rail Partnership



Chester-Shrewsbury Community Rail Partnership

- Established in late 1990's
- Assigned to lines which were failing
- DfT Community Rail Strategy

Chester-Shrewsbury Community Rail Partnership

- Brings together local communities and the railway
- Delivers sustainable local improvements
- Increases ridership

Chester-Shrewsbury Community Rail Partnership

- Does a lot with a little
- Take opportunities
- Look at innovative solutions
- Work with the community

- Rail is an economic driver
- Access to jobs, health and education
- Access to family & friends
- Access to retail outlets and attractions

Meeting expectations

- Meeting expectations
- Do rural railway stations meet expectations?

- Meeting expectations
- Do rural railway stations meet expectations?
- Is it a shelter and seat on the platform?



- Meeting expectations
- Do rural railway stations meet expectations?
- Is it a shelter and seat on the platform?
- Or can they be developed to make them valuable community assets?

#### Rural Community Rail Gobowen Station



- Gobowen
- Population (2011) 3270
- North Shropshire
- Nearest town Oswestry
- Current train service 1 train per hour
- Direct trains to Chester/Holyhead/Birmingham/ Shrewsbury/Cardiff
- Car park developed through an RPP scheme

#### Rural Community Rail Gobowen Station



- Severn Dee Travel
- Booking Office staffed 7.15am to 5pm
- Provide a waiting room
- Toilet facilities
- Information
- Café

- Severn Dee Travel established 1995
- Not for profit since 2006
- 6 volunteer Directors
- Employs 2 full time staff and casual cover
- A welcoming atmosphere

- Severn Dee Travel established 1995
- Not for profit since 2006
- 6 volunteer Directors
- Employs 2 full time staff and casual cover
- A welcoming atmosphere
- Community Rail ethos does a lot with a little







Derwen College Café

A work experience opportunity for students

A café serving local produce for passengers and residents

Involving diverse groups



# Students working on branding

• Involving diverse groups



We encourage them to display and sell the products made at the college

• Public Artwork

- Public Artwork
- Brief was it should transform not just be 'pretty pictures'



Chirk Pop. 4468 Footfall 68,444

Ruabon Pop. 4274 Footfall 92,986

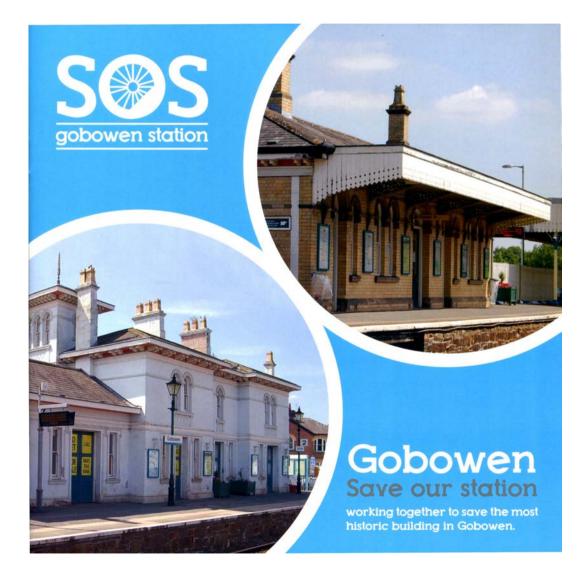
Chirk Pop. 4468 Footfall 68,444

Ruabon Pop. 4274 Footfall 92,986

Gobowen Pop. 3270 Footfall 214,000 Increase on previous year 6%

- Its not all 'sweetness and light'
- 2016/17 particularly challenging

- Its not all 'sweetness and light'
- 2016/17 particularly challenging
- Buildings placed in Auction.....
- Needed to secure jobs and businesses
- Community Right to Bid



#### The story so far

One of the biggest benefits we have in Gobowen is that we have a main line railway station at its heart. It sadly no longer links to the nearest town, Oswestry but reopening that link is being worked on by one of our partners the Cambrian Railways Heritage Trust. We are also fortunate In September 2015 it came to our attention that that despite the size of Gobowen we have a railway station which is staffed and run as a not for profit rail agency by Severn Dee Travel who with no buyer found. also provide a booking office, a heated waiting room, toilet facilities and allow a small café to operate staffed by students from the local Derwen College; a residential college for those with learning difficulties.

The most important historic buildings in the village are those at Gobowen Station. Grade II listed and built in 1846 they were designed by T M Penson. The main building is an outstanding design in a Florentine style, more like an Italian villa than a railway station. With stucco facing, pairs of round-topped windows, a semi-circular apse, and a small turret, it is a real gem.

However these buildings are no longer in railway ownership and over the years have sadly deteriorated with the rendered building in particular in a sorry state.

the two main buildings were to be auctioned after being advertised for sale for some years

Approaching the owners of the property we appealed for time to try and put together a bid for community ownership to ensure these buildings were developed both for community and railway benefit.



2 Gobowen SOS Save Our Station

#### What is GAIP? Our vision

#### **Gobowen Area Improvement Project**

In May 2015 through the **Chester-Shrewsbury Rail Partnership** brought together organisations in an effort to make improvements. All of us in one form or another had been trying to make small improvements to the station and the area in general but by combining our resources and working together we know we could achieve more.

#### It has representatives from:

- Shrewsbury Chester Rail Users Association
- Gobowen & Selattyn Parish Council
- Cambrian Railways Heritage Trust
- Arriva Trains Wales Station Adopter
- 3 Parishes Big Local One of 150 Big Local programmes around the country. Each Big Local area has been allocated at least £1m to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their communities.
- Severn Dee Travel Operates the rail agency as a social enterprise with 6 volunteer directors and employing 3 staff.
- Chester Shrewsbury Rail Partnership The community rail partnership for the line
- OSBT Oswestry Station Building Trust
- 4 Gobowen SOS Save Our Station

Our vision is simple; we wish to ensure Gobowen Station buildings are:

- Acquired by a community focused organisation
- Restored, in a programme works including addressing the render problems
- Managed in the future with full community involvement

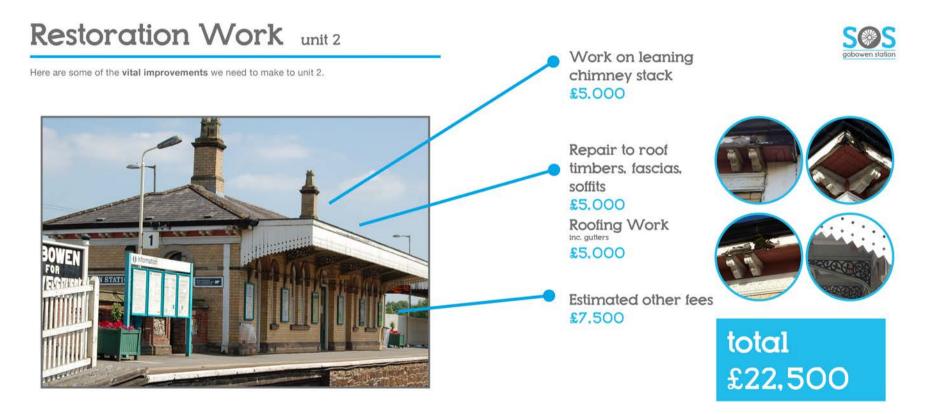


- To acquire by a community focused organisation
- To restore in a programme of works
- To manage with community involvement



6 Gobowen SOS Save Our Station

Gobowen SOS Save Our Station | 7



8 Gobowen SOS Save Our Station

Gobowen SOS Save Our Station 9

How did we get on?

- OSBT became the financial enabling partner
- Detailed business plan drawn up

How did we get on?

- OSBT became the financial enabling partner
- Detailed business plan drawn up
- Grants & loans identified

How did we get on?

- OSBT became the financial enabling partner
- Detailed business plan drawn up
- Grants & loans identified
- Purchase achieved within the 6 month deadline

Immediate future

- Refurbishment of empty unit for 2018
- Café refurbishment for 2018

The end?

It never ends.....

- Seeking restoration funding
- In discussion with Planning and conservation
- In discussion with Network Rail

It's merely the end of the first chapter.....

