

SHREWSBURY TO ABERYSTWYTH RAIL LIAISON COMMITTEE
with
WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

WELSHPOOL MAIN LINE RAILWAY STATION



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28.12.2017

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1. Introduction

This paper sets out the case for improved facilities at Welshpool Station which I probably the station with the least facilities for a town of its size (catchment area 20,000 people) along the Cambrian and Coast lines.

Since the new timetable was introduced in May 2015 the number of passengers using the station has increased by over 100%. Taking this into account the limited facilities on the station platform are now far from acceptable.

This paper sets out the recent history, the issues and a proposal which could improve the station for its passengers.

2. Recent History

The most relevant recent history is as follows:

- a) The railway station was relocated into its current position in the mid 1970's when the bypass was constructed.
- b) The railway station constructed at that time was never adequate but in recent times (with the new timetable) the facilities are even less adequate.
- c) The new rail timetable has increased passenger traffic substantially.
- d) A new car park was constructed by the Town Council on land to the east side the station which is now well used.
- e) The access bridge has received a new surface in recent years, however as the walkway is not covered it does not take much for ice to form and create a hazardous journey to the platforms.
- f) The Town Council has provided two new litter bins (each side of the bridge) and cleans the bridge on a regular basis, this has improved the litter situation.
- g) The Town Council is providing a new signboard on the bridge to enable passengers to find their way around much easier.

3. The issues

The issues surrounding the need for station improvements are:

- a) The number of persons now using the station (an increase of approx. 120% since the new rail timetable introduced in May 2015.
- b) The shelter is well short of what is needed to accommodate the number of passengers using the trains.
- c) There are no toilet facilities on the station and no public toilets close to the station.

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Cont...

- d) The access arrangements for disabled are very poor with the only access being via the very steep and long ramp.

4. The proposal

The proposal to improve facilities at Welshpool Main Line Station takes into account the following factors:

- a) The site layout and boundary confines.
- b) The ongoing maintenance of any facilities' provided.

The proposal includes the following elements:

Access

Access for disabled is very poor with a long winding ramp being the only way to the platforms. The proposal includes for lifts at both the car park entrance and down to the platform.

Car Parking

The on site car parking is limited but there is little room to improve this situation without extensive land acquisition. Approx. 6-8 cars extra could be gained by minor alterations to the main car park area.

Station building

At present there is only one single shelter with a ticket machine housed within. You can get approx. 10-12 persons inside the shelter at a push. Many trains have at least 30 passengers to board the Shrewsbury bound train and another 10 or so for the Aberystwyth bound train. Both trains arrive around the same time.

The proposal is to move the shelter down the platform and to provide a building above the tracks accessed from the existing bridge.

The design would allow for a walkway to the platform even when the buildings are locked.

The new building would provide seating, ticket machines, vending machine, two toilets (one disabled) and indicator boards to show when trains are getting near.

A CCV camera will need to be installed within the building for security.

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Services

Electrical services are on site. Water and sewage services will need to be installed to allow for the toilet accommodation.

Cleaning and maintenance

The Town Council is willing to provide toilet cleaning and emptying of bins along with general tidy up of the new building. Repairing liability would remain with the railway companies. An arrangement could be agreed to cover what is needed by agreement.

5. Plan of proposals

An outline layout plan showing the proposals is set out below:

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WELSHPOOL STATION (General View)



Pictures of the Old Station building adjacent the current station



Pictures showing bridge access



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Pictures of current car parking



Pictures of new car park area



Pictures of station platform



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Picture of suggested information board in new building



Images of ticket machine and lift



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Proposed seating type



Possible look of station from the Shrewsbury Platform end.

WELCOME TO WELSHPOOL

GATEWAY TO WALES

Town Centre

(5 minutes Walk)

Buses To The Town Centre

Departing from the Old Station
quarter to and 20 past the hour
(excluding 20 past 3 and quarter to 4)
First bus 8:52, Last bus 16.47



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