

# RESIDENTS WANT THEIR STATION BACK!

**RESIDENTS in one North Wales village are demanding their station be re-instated. Crazy around 30 trains a day pass through 2,000 population Rossett - that's around one an hour in each direction. Report by David Parry-Jones. Photographs by Stéphanie Durrant.**

But the station platform was dug up three years ago in what appeared to be confirmation that no train planned to ever stop there again. But villagers are asking why not?

Just up the Chester to Shrewsbury line, tiny Chirk still has a station, as even smaller Gobowen does.

Gobowen can argue it serves Oswestry but a train stopping at Rossett could serve Llay Burton, Marford and Holt and even double up as a traffic-preventing park and ride.

Several of the trains that pass through Rossett usefully terminate at Birmingham New Street Station where the UK then becomes your oyster.

Many villagers want to travel south on business or reach stations in the Midlands or the south. They have discovered that boarding the train at Wrexham and alighting at Birmingham is a much easier trek than tackling the outskirts of Chester to reach its station and then change at Crewe to go south.

Whatsmore the Wrexham to Birmingham train is blessed with a coffee trolley and does the journey in just one hour 20 minutes -

marginally quicker than you can do it by car.

The village is arguing that if the train stopped it could cut down the number of cars that travel to Chester and be forced to pay its exorbitant parking charges for the privilege of spending their shopping money there.

They argue that a few years back John Prescott urged them forgo the car and use public transport. And they stress if he let the train stop in the village, it would be a great encouragement.

Rossett is one of the few places where the train is only a few hundred yards from the centre, unlike Chirk where it is nearly a mile from the village.

And the villagers add that stopping, where you pay the guard, would barely add three minutes to the Chester to Wrexham journey time.

The issue has just been highlighted in Essential, the Rossett community magazine, where villagers were asked to gang together to fight to get their station back.

Just 30 years ago a thriving station stood on the spot, complete with signal box, crossing gates and even a railway siding.

Now only an animal feed business remains at the site, but there is plenty of room to accommodate hundreds of cars if the station was re-instated and villagers used it as a commuter link. ■

