

Presentation to Shropshire County Rail Forum

Shrewsbury
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Today's Presentation

- What is Open Access?
- Who is promoting Wrexham & Shropshire?
- What are we proposing?
- The timetable
- The trains
- Getting Up and Running

What is “Open Access”?

- Wrexham & Shropshire will be an “Open Access” Operator
- Not a government franchise, but privately funded
- 1993 Railways Act established the principle perpetuated by all subsequent legislation
- All freight is Open Access
- An Open Access operator must be approved by the industry regulator, the ORR
- Pre-requisites are an operator's licence, a safety case and a Track Access Agreement with Network Rail

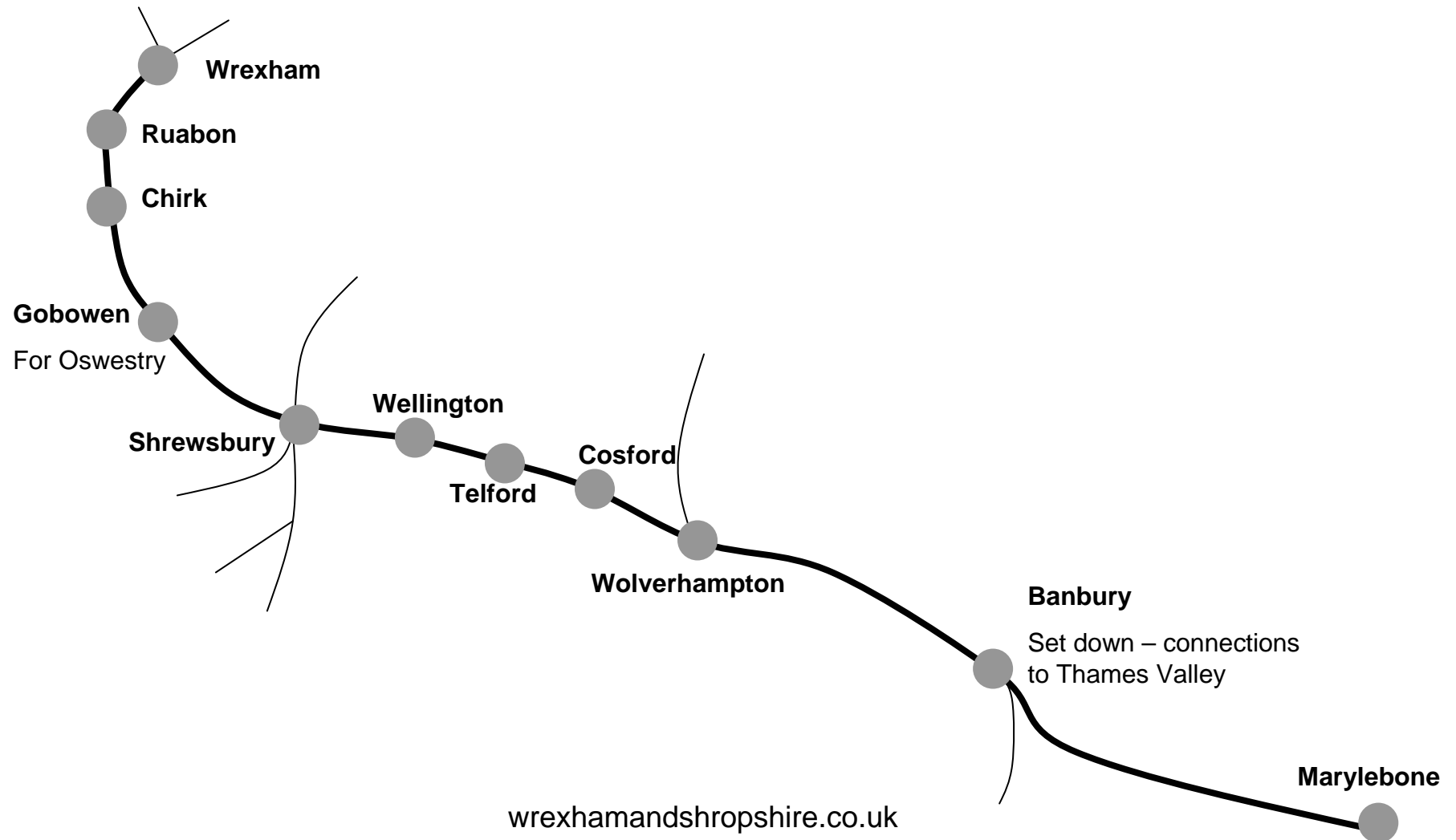
The Promoters

- The Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway is a Joint Venture between Laing and Renaissance Trains
- Laing owns the award winning Chiltern Railways franchise
- Renaissance Trains promoted Hull Trains and is a vehicle for re-invigorating parts of the rail network forgotten by the major operators and national rail authorities

What is the plan?

- To operate up to 5 daily trains each way between Wrexham, Shropshire and London Marylebone.
- Marylebone is Chiltern Railways' terminal where capacity has been increased as part of a total route modernisation as far as Birmingham, all of which help make the proposals realistic.
- Other London stations – Euston and Paddington – would offer a less reliable proposition and would be opposed by others

The Route



The Plan

- 5 trains each way Weekdays with 4 on Saturdays and 3 on Sundays
- Key stops in Shropshire –
 - All trains call at Gobowen, Shrewsbury and Telford
 - Some trains also call at Wellington and Cosford
- South of Wolverhampton stop only at Banbury (set down for Oxford, Reading and South Coast)
- Both First and Standard Class
 - At-seat meals service for First Class
 - Buffet counter service for Standard Class

The Plan

- Fares structure will be similar to that operated by Hull Trains
 - Savings compared to existing “any operator” fares, on average 20% cheaper
 - Greater savings available for booking ahead

Potential Timetable

Shrewsbury - London			London - Shrewsbury	
Depart	Arrive		Depart	Arrive
0619	0919		0717	1033
0836	1133		1012	1310
1236	1529		1245	1542
1536	1833		1627	1933
1836	2132		1924	2225

Trains

- We intend to secure four train sets to operate the services proposed
- Trains will be refurbished internally to a high standard
- Externally they will carry Wrexham & Shropshire livery
- Four options are available and the decision will be based on
 - Performance
 - Cost
 - Customer service

Getting Up and Running

- Good progress with Network Rail on terms for a Track Access Agreement
- Application to the Office of Rail Regulation for licence to be submitted in December. We will need to
 - Demonstrate our timetable is deliverable
 - Demonstrate the benefits of our proposals
 - Show that we have a low impacts on other TOCs
 - Demonstrate stakeholder support

Getting Up and Running

- Small investment in infrastructure required in Wrexham, seeking support from Welsh Assembly for this
- Interaction with DfT proposals for December 2008 timetable
- Start date in the second half of 2007, will depend on when licence is granted
- Recruitment of staff to begin in early 2007

Questions