

A STATION FOR BASCHURCH

Campaign for Rail supports attempts to reopen the station at Baschurch, eight miles north of Shrewsbury on the line to Chester. Shinglers, a locally based property development company, has acquired an area of land near the old station. Rather than build houses on all of it, it is willing to see part of it used as a 69 space car park for a new station. An hourly service south to Shrewsbury and north to Wrexham and Chester not only would make properties easier to sell, but helps the business case for a new station by increasing the catchment to justify a new station.



The campaign enjoys much local support, with Shropshire County Council reported to 'fully behind reopening'. Baschurch Parish Council called a public meeting at the village's primary school and about 250 attended, including the local MP, Helen Morgan and transport experts, Prof. John Whitelegg and Dr. Nigel Harris.



The original station building survives but is in poor condition and would be expensive to restore. It closed in 1960, even before the Beeching Report, so a new location a little to the south east is favoured. This is where a B road crosses the line and there are automatic half barriers for the level crossing. Campaigners hope the level crossing might avoid the cost of linking the two new platforms with an expensive footbridge with lifts. There is a 18 mile gap between Shrewsbury and Gobowen, one of the longest gaps in our region without a station. Baschurch is midway, so should draw from a wide area.

Words and photo: Keith Flinders