

11th January 2002

SRA Funds New Station Building at Ludlow

The SRA is providing £89,000 worth of funding for a new permanent building and other improvements to facilities at Ludlow Station in Shropshire, through its Rail Passenger Partnership scheme. An additional contribution of £9,000 is being provided by Shropshire County Council.

The project will provide for the replacement of the existing Portakabin with a permanent building, including larger retail/display/seating area for customers, disabled access, disabled toilet and a Customer Information Service screen. The work will start next month and is expected to be completed in May. A temporary ticket office will be provided while the work is ongoing.

Chris Austin, SRA External Relations Director, said:

"I am delighted to be announcing funding for work which will hugely improve the station environment at Ludlow. This is the seventh RPP project that we are funding on the Wales and Borders network, all of which are aimed at making rail travel more attractive to the general public."

Chris Gibb, Managing Director of Wales and Borders Trains, said:

"This announcement is excellent news for the town of Ludlow, our customers and the agent who runs the travel agency at the station. The added facilities will provide a welcome boost for rail users and local residents and I am delighted that the work is expected to be completed in time for the summer season."

Notes to Editors

1. Ludlow is on the Hereford to Shrewsbury line and is served by Wales and Borders Trains from Manchester, Liverpool, Holyhead, Bristol and Cardiff.
2. This is the second RPP project to benefit Shropshire. In September 2001 improved facilities were opened at Gobowen Station in the north of the county, following the provision of £100,000 worth of SRA funding.
3. The Rail Passenger Partnership scheme is designed to support projects which, though deemed not commercially viable, aim to promote transport integration and encourage modal shift from road to rail.
4. To date around £48million has been allocated to 42 projects. The SRA announced in December 2001 that around £400million would be spent on RPP projects over the next ten years.

Wales and Borders Trains: 07071 881278

**For further details contact the Department for Transport Rail Press desk:
020 7944 3108**