

Denbigh to Corwen Line Set to Reopen

It has been revealed that another rail route axed as a result of the Beeching cuts is set to re-open - 55 years after trains were withdrawn. The Denbigh to Corwen line in Wales is poised to benefit from a £500m government scheme that aims to reverse some of the closures ordered in the 1960s.



A station sign from the former line, now preserved

According to a report on the BBC Wales service, a councillor whose father was a train driver wants to see the reopening of a rural line which closed in the 1960s. Brian Jones, Denbighshire's lead member for transport, said he had been keen to bid for a slice of the UK government's £500m fund to restore lost routes. Vale of Clwyd Conservative MP James Davies said the area would benefit from restoring connections to the North Wales main line.



two days before passenger services ended in April 1962

The Denbigh, Ruthin and Corwen Railway opened in 1865, closing to passengers in 1962, and completely in 1965, as part of widespread cuts to the UK rail network proposed by Sir Richard Beeching.

Councillor Jones told the Local Democracy Reporting Service: "My father was a train driver and he used to take me on the footplate of the steam trains. I was definitely in favour of bidding for the money. Goodness knows who owns the land now - but I am in favour. I've had the conversation a few times over the past years. If someone had had the foresight to see where we are in 2020, they never would have shut the line down."



The Denbigh station site is now occupied by a retail park while a craft centre stands on the station site at Ruthin.

showroom

In the meantime, a new Corwen station, to the east of the town, is due to open this year as part of the latest extension to the Llangollen Heritage Steam Railway.