

**Angela Foster**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 29 May 2018 11:04  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Objection to CPO of land by Rother Valley Railway

Dear Mr Grayling,

I am writing to you in respect to my objection to the proposed Rother Valley Railway steam railway extension from Robertsbridge to Bodiam.

The fact that this sorry episode has reached this point is a tragedy in itself. We have RVR, a privately owned railway company with deep pockets and connected political reaches, applying for a CPO to effectively land grab a citizen's private property to get its way. It is profoundly disturbing and bordering on the horrific. What sort of a country have we become? What message does this send out to our children and our community when well-pocketed businessmen with expensive hobbies can be seen to abuse the system so prolifically?

What precedent is this setting?

I repeat, what precedent is this setting?

I have read RVR's proposals closely. It beggars belief that a company can get away with such ill-informed, sweeping statements and grandiose assertions that are claimed to be in the local interest. All of it smells of self-aggrandisement.

In terms of railway access the existing Tenterden-Bodiam line already provides adequate connection to the Castle and the surrounding areas. So why do we need another railway? Having lived in the area for a number of years, the logic of all of a sudden creating Robertsbridge as a destination village is perplexing.

Robertsbridge?

Is this a joke or have I missed something here?

On a more day-to-day level, no considerations have been made to the effect on the A21. With all of RVR's projected tens of thousands of eager train tourists funnelling in to the area for the privilege of sitting on a steam train, the idea to have a railway crossing on it is nothing short of lunacy. The A21 is challenging at the best of times. Do the people at RVR have any experience of this road? Obviously not as they are clearly not local to the area.

Additionally the effects of the problems of increased flooding to the Robertsbridge area has not been addressed by RVR. It's noticeable by its absence.

Mr Grayling, you must step in and stop this unnecessary scarring of the land and vulgar show of corporate bullying in its tracks.

Please reconsider the ramifications of the issuing of this CPO and the precedent of a private company being given licence to land grab. The effects of this CPO on the rights of private property ownership will be permanent and far-reaching. There will be no turning back from this.

The state of affairs in this debacle is tragic. I implore you to act decisively and not be taken in by this ruse. I want my Government to be principled, representative and unfettered by the influences and ambitious claws of cash rich businesses to inveigle individuals out of their hard won democratic right of ownership.

If you still remain unmoved, be assured that as always in these matters, it is the many local people who are left counting the sorry cost of a few non-local businessmen and their self-obsessed, self-absorbed, hubristic, white elephant projects of vanity.

Yours sincerely

Dorian Nightingale

Sent from my iPhone

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