

Angela Foster

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From: Dawn Sturges
Sent: 28 May 2018 18:02
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: FW: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport,

I am a local resident near Robertsbridge, East Sussex, who has to use the A21 daily to travel to work and I am writing to object to the Transport and Works Act Order for the construction of a steam railway line across the flood plains from Robertsbridge to Bodiam by the Rother Valley Railway (RVR). This will cause many issues to the local Robertsbridge area, but the key ones are: -

Level Crossing over the A21

I understand that Highways England and the ORR are actively removing level crossings from the road network and so to build a new crossing over the A21, which is already at full capacity would have a paralysing effect on the A21, with queues predicted to be up to 2.9km long. This would also cause safety issues with queues crossing the nearby roundabout. There have been calls to improve and dual carriage the A21 for years to be able to be able to grow the economy in Hastings, but this would be taking a major step back with any improvement.

Flooding

The Rother Valley Railway is seeking Compulsory Purchase Powers to acquire land over flood plains. I am not sure how this can be done for non-essential infrastructure, such as a steam railway, but the building of a railway embankment, loss of floodplain and restriction of flood water flows would increase the flood water levels to significantly increase the risk of flooding to a number of properties in Robertsbridge. This village suffered for years from flooding, until flood defences were built.

Car Parking

The RVR predicts that a minimum of 50,000 visitors would be attracted to Robertsbridge to catch the steam train to Tenterden. Robertsbridge is a small village with no car parking or other essential facilities. There is no potential economic benefit to the village as it is expected that passengers will alight the train at Bodiam and/or Tenterden to use their facilities:

Environmental

The flood plain with the River Rother running through is home to a variety of species. We have even seen an otter on the river banks! Pollution from steam and diesel trains, along with pollution from cars being held up at the crossing is bound to have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in the area.

I do hope that these concerns are taken into consideration and that at least a Public Enquiry is held.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Dawn Sturges