

From: Jake Wood
Sent: 28 May 2018 17:43
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order
Attachments: AGL Ainslie Parish council april 18.docx

FAO: Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

Sir,

I am writing to express my extreme concerns regarding the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) for the construction of the railway line across the flood plain from Robertsbridge to Bodiam.

I attach a letter from a local farmer who I know well and trust implicitly; this spells out in detail what our major concerns are. However for brevity here, I would like to list the following:

- There is not a compelling case for Compulsory Purchase powers to be used to acquire land for non-essential infrastructure/a hobby railway.
- There will be no tangible economic benefit to surrounding area. Rother Valley Railway (RVR) have admitted that Robertsbridge would not benefit from this project.
- There will be a total of three new level crossings, one of which will be across the busy A21 - which is already the most dangerous road in the UK, according to the Road Safety Foundation. This will cause huge disruption to motorists and is contrary to the Government's and Network Rail's policy to remove as many level crossings as possible as they are deemed to be dangerous.
- Reports show increased flooding potential to properties in and around Robertsbridge and Salehurst. These risks have not been mitigated.
- Environmentally, the railway would result in the destruction of habitats on Moat Farm that have been untouched for decades. Also to be considered, is the noise, smoke and diesel fume pollution from the trains and emissions from cars held up at the level crossings.
- This is a new railway and not a reinstatement, as claimed by RVR. The track bed does not exist any longer.

I would therefore like to add my voice to the many others already strongly objecting to this planning application. And I also join them in requesting a public enquiry on this matter.

My postal address is:

With thanks and regards,

Jake Wood.

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