

From: jacqui pickworth
Sent: 28 May 2018 15:06
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway

From:
Jacqui Pickworth

I am writing to state my objection to the proposed extension to the Rother Valley Railway (RVR) line which will allow steam trains to travel from Bodiam into Robertsbridge. They are as follows:

INCREASED CONGESTION

RVR have not provided for car parking or infrastructure. Level crossings on A21 and Northbridge Street. The A21 is a busy and dangerous road and a level crossing near the roundabout will block the road in both directions. When there is congestion near Robertsbridge cars come through the village to avoid it. There is a plan to build an additional 150 houses in the village which will add to the flow of traffic. Many of the houses in the High Street and Northbridge Street don't have garages or off-road parking and some have no pavement along front of the houses so their front doors open straight onto the road. Cars have been hit on many different occasions by hit-and-run drivers. My own car has been hit 5 times in the past 18 years, twice in 24 hours and my neighbours car was hit 3 times in year.

INCREASED FLOOD RISK

The proposed rail embankment across the flood plains will increase flood levels at Robertsbridge though to Bodiam causing a threat to houses and businesses. There has been no financial contribution from RVR to the cost of increased flood defences. During the flood of 2000 the flood water was 2 meters higher on the village side of the A21 because the bi-pass acted as a barrier.

INSUFFICIENT CAR PARKING

There is already a parking problem in Robertsbridge as many houses do not have garages or off-road parking. This is made worse by visitors coming to the village by car and then travelling by train from the existing station. No car parking or infrastructure provision has been made by RVR.

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

The proposed use of steam and diesel trains through a registered AONB will cause excessive noise and pollution. Steam trains use fossil fuels and belch out sulphurous smoke. This will cause damage to the natural habitat of many birds, butterflies, moths and plant life.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

Farmers are being forced to sell their land against their wishes.

NO ECONOMIC BENEFIT

RVR have admitted that most visitors are expected to alight at Bodiam or Tentrden with any benefits being away from Robertsbridge. RVR use volunteers for their staff and no new jobs will be created.