

Angela Foster

OBS 671

**From:** Jane Turner  
**Sent:** 28 May 2018 00:08  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Mr Grayling

We are writing to you to express both our deepest concern about the proposed re instatement of the Rother Valley Railway Robertsbridge to Bodiam and to ask that our view is taken into consideration.

We have lived in Robertsbridge for the last 12 years and as well as owning a cottage in the High Street we are also business owners of one of the pubs in the village too so have a dual interest in the Railway and its impact on our village.

We have two small children so are actually fans of Steam Railways as such, however in this case, we feel that there are many concerns that need to be addressed before this link can be joined up.

We feel there is not a compelling case for Compulsory Purchase powers to be used to acquire land for what is simply non essential infrastructure and a hobby railway. Our understanding was that for a CPO to be granted, it should be for something for the greater good for all and more importantly, it should be for something that is essential ie a hospital, motorway etc. The land is NOT for sale and the landowners should not be bullied into selling it just because someone wants to run a hobby railway.

There have been many arguments about the fact that this will bring economic benefit to this area and in some way we can't argue that there will be some benefit but from our experience, people only have on average about 45 minutes to an hour between the next return train, so a quick cup of tea and some souvenirs from a shop on the station might benefit, therefore the only economic benefit would probably be to the RVR shop and facilities rather than customers actually taking a walk up our beautiful village to spend their money. Alternatively, we feel it is much more likely that the "economic benefit" which this concept has been sold in on, is more likely to be felt further up the line in Bodiam or even Tenterden. Instead we get all the car parking issues, the ecological and environmental damage, the risk of flooding, and the emotional turmoil because of the CPO.

Another area of concern for us is the installation of three new level crossings, one of which will be across the busy A21. 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. Our understanding was to enhance the links down to the coastal towns, to make it more attractive to investors and people to the area – instead, lets slow the road down even more! Totally ridiculous and totally against everything we have read previously about enhancing the vital A21. There is also the impact of the increase in Pollution from when the cars are sitting waiting for the crossing. This will also be felt right in the heart of the village with the crossing at The Clappers, which is an area on the school run.

Robertsbridge is already unfortunately very experienced in flooding and the Environment Agency have made a huge investment to our Flood Defences, and the Reports show increased flooding potential to properties in and around Robertsbridge and Salehurst, all of which have not been mitigated by RVR.

Probably for us one of the biggest areas of concerns is also the issue of parking which seems to be classed as not necessary by RBV as, they state that everyone will come by train to ride the train from Robertsbridge, and not by car. This is totally ridiculous and of course cars will be used for visitors. However, RVR have very proudly started that they have 1 space available and there will not be a problem with parking. In Robertsbridge, we have a huge parking problem as already we have commuters who come and park on our streets and then go to London for the day. There is often not any parking for residents, let alone the problems the cars cause for emergency vehicles

trying to get through. This area is very emotive and one which if the railway does go ahead will cause complete chaos for parking.

Finally, the environmental damage that this railway will cause will be terrible as many habitats on the Moat farm, have been untouched for decades and for our children, these spaces should be left as they are and not "taken" by others against the owners wills, just because they have the money! .

Technically as business owners, we should be looking at the proposal as future opportunities for our business, however we strongly feel that we are not going to see that opportunity as the customers are going to just going to go and get straight back in their car, or after a short stop visiting the RVR shop at the station, they are going to get back on the train again.

We hope our views can be listened too as on first glance this project looked like a wonderful thing for our village, however on closer inspection, we are going to have to face a lot of negative issues for this railway to be implemented and for that reason, we ask that our views are taken into consideration.

Kind regards

**Jane Turner**

---

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.  
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

---