

From: Jess B
Sent: 27 May 2018 19:54
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Sir

I write to express my objection to the proposed above project.

I don't know if you have ever used the roads down here in East Sussex but it has to be said they are lacking in the extreme. We have some of the worst connections in the country and to consider anything other than dualling the existing roads to increase traffic flow would be banal. We do not need yet another crossing to slow down traffic movement in any direction. I am a local resident and shopper, I have little choice but to go via Robertsbridge to access the A21 and the M25, to head over towards Kent. Despite trying to put back into the commercial community I often wonder how the folk living in these small villages cope with the traffic outside their doors and the tiresome slow journeys just to carry out their everyday business.

High streets are dying all over the country, we are very fortunate to have some small local communities such as Robertsbridge High Street still in operation to serve the local population. Businesses are struggling and are disappearing over night. What is essential is parking both on street and close to amenities. This 'tourist attraction' will not bring increased business to the high street in Robertsbridge - quite the opposite - it will bring the area to a standstill and make parking a nightmare for the locals and the shops will go bust.

This is a particularly beautiful part of the county, with very long standing family bonds and close communities. This proposed work will tear apart farming families, destroy such stunning land and heritage woodland. Everyone has been trying to put back into the countryside in this area, to build lives and to continue farming, but this will have such a devastating impact that it really cannot be considered viable.

If there really is such a huge amount of money just sitting there waiting for someone to invest it then by all means invest it on widening the existing roads, improving the god awful road surfaces, supporting the local farmers and making the communities safer.

Yours faithfully

Jessica Bramwell