

Angela Foster

OBJ/675

**From:** Terry Newman  
**Sent:** 27 May 2018 17:49  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway

transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Dr T M Newman

Dear Rt Hon Chris Grayling

I am writing to object to the Rother Valley Railway scheme. I have read this groups' proposal, and as a former research scientist, I believe their arguments and conclusions to both be erroneous. Such a scheme, with three level crossings, will undoubtedly cause dangerous traffic disruption, especially to the already over-burdened road A21. Traffic already goes too fast through the village – I have witnessed two accidents – and this would encourage A21 users to try to avoid the A21 level crossing by diverting along Northbridge Street.

The RVR plans will inevitably adversely effect village flood management and the rail embankments will be a blot on the landscape. Useful and attractive farmland and woodland – the very reason people come to the country – will be lost. We have recently seen pairs of Little Egrets in the field adjacent to Northbridge Street, the very area they intend to build on.

There really is just no business case for this scheme either, the existing steam line between Bodiam and Tenterden already fills this need and RVR's plan is not going to boost the local economy or help unemployment. One pub is very much against the scheme. This type of facility relies heavily on volunteers, as they well know. Historically this branch line was never really required and subject to flooding, which is why it has never been missed.

For RVR to not anticipate a great need for additional parking is ludicrous - the village is already short of parking – and expecting most people to arrive by train is ridiculous. It seems RVR's train enthusiasts do not use the train much otherwise they would know that essential on-going engineering work can frequently add 90 minutes to a journey to Robertsbridge at weekends.

This is not a tourist attraction but a proper village and should remain so. This is also a very bad use of a compulsory purchase order and a bad precedent for the completion of such a 'vanity project' that is not wanted or required. The RVR have also put in a compulsory purchase order for parts of the Clappers Recreational area – without good cause.

Really the scheme should be dropped now - without the cost of a public enquiry, if not, one is very necessary to stop this now.

I am actually quite a steam enthusiast, but this is a very bad idea, badly thought out.

Yours sincerely,

Dr T. M. Newman

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