

05/686

Angela Foster

From: Alex Clarke
Sent: 29 May 2018 15:47
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Re: Objection to COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER - MOAT FARM, SALEHURST

FAO Chris Grayling

Dear Chris

I am writing object to the CPO that I see is attempting to be justified on the basis of its positive economic factors.

I am concerned that the impact on adding a railway crossing across the A21 will have to our guests travelling down the A21, which most do.

The railway crossing will have the following impact:

- decreases the flow of traffic along that road, thereby un-doing all the benefits of the recent road improvements made, which are so badly needed to serve Hastings
- the tailbacks on this route are already significant on weekends and during the summer, this will only contribute to further delays
- the negative impact of road delays across a year would be enormous - if you take the cost of delaying every person caught up in the tail backs, then times by the number minutes lost, by the times this is proposed to happen each year, it would easily cost the economy over £1 million per annum in lost economic productivity. There is no way the positive economic impact of the railway can even scratch the surface of this.

It is very sceptical that the extended line could be said to create any additional jobs to the area. Enthusiasts would likely visit the existing facilities anyway - exactly how many NEW visitors would come just because of the addition of this line? I can't imagine any.

And all staff are volunteers. The only jobs would be related to the works building it, including a service road alongside, straight through a virgin flood plain, which seems anything but wrecking the local environment.

Whether this project can justify a CPO is in itself is questionable, to what extent can this really be in the public interest - or should it be seen for what it really is, a vanity project for a retired millionaire. This is not the type of project the Conservative project should be associated with if it is to maintain its credibility.

Regards Alex Clarke

Alex Clarke
Director