

**From:** darren kent  
**Sent:** 20 May 2018 19:30  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway Compulsory Purchase Order

Dear Mr Grayling,

As a resident of Robertsbridge, East Sussex, I would like to raise my objections to the Rother Valley Railway's (RVR) application for a Transport and Works Act incorporating Compulsory Purchase Orders of land that is not for sale to connect to Kent and East Sussex Railway (KESR).

This project is not for major infrastructure but solely the vision of a few wealthy gentlemen whom have no connection with Robertsbridge apart from owning the land Robertsbridge Junction is situated on. RVR is a charity so I fail to comprehend how a CPO can be issued by them or how they have been supported in issuing a CPO.

RVR have hoodwinked the residents of Robertsbridge with this project by falsifying data, for example:-

The level crossing times were extended from 48 seconds to 1minute and 48 seconds, once the planning application was approved by Rother District Council which surely makes the planning consent invalid.

RVR have been vague in their plans to mitigate the effect of having a railway embankment constructed through a flood plain which could mean increased flood levels at Robertsbridge through to Bodiam with the real possibility of flooding to homes and businesses which could mean increased insurance premiums or unable to be insured at all.

RVR's environmental impact study found no protected species along the proposed route, but there are Great Crested Newts habituating the numerous wildlife ponds along the proposed route, there are bats, mainly pipistrelle bats and a recent discovery of our native wild Otter living along the banks of the River Rother close to the proposed route which are all protected species.

RVR claimed prior to planning consent that the economic benefit to Robertsbridge would be somewhere in the region of 5 million pounds per year but now claim the the economic benefit would go to either Bodiam or Tenterden but seeing as KESR make a loss each year how on earth have RVR come up with this figure.

RVR are providing no additional car parking beyond what is already available within Robertsbridge and have a projected visitor forecast of 50,000 visitors to which RVR claim the majority will travel by mainline train, which is highly unlikely due to the cost of rail travel and the ease of just getting in the car.

Robertsbridge has a population of around 2600 residents and do not have the infrastructure to cope with the estimated visitors that RVR claim, even on a match day at Robertsbridge United Football Club, with the visiting supporters attending, the village is choked with cars parked anywhere they can, to the point where you have to walk in the road.

I urge you to take all objections with serious consideration as this project will change our village life, coupled with the housing that needs to be built in Robertsbridge our village will be changed for the worst.

I have spoken to all of the business owners within Robertsbridge and Salehurst and the majority do not want more business that RVR claim that the railway will bring, they are happy servicing the local area.

Kind Regards

Darren Kent

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