

06/1134

**ELIZABETH STRANGMAN**



14 May 2018

Dear Mr Grayling

**RE: Proposed Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order**

I am writing to object to the Rother Valley Railway's proposed line extension. My reasons are as follows:

**Level Crossings and Pollution**

I am a very concerned resident of \_\_\_\_\_ and live very close to one of the proposed level crossing sites. In fact if this proposal is passed I will be concertinaed between two of the level crossings.

I do not think the proposal takes into consideration the effects on traffic in \_\_\_\_\_. It is a narrow road, made more so by residential on-street parking which makes the passage of larger vehicles, buses and lorries quite tricky at times. I am very concerned that the proposed barrier, to be shut for nearly two minutes each time, will cause long tailbacks both in and out of the village, creating a bottleneck effect along \_\_\_\_\_.

There is likely to be an increase of coaches to the station, and cars arriving at specific times to meet the Rother Valley Railway timetable, which can only add to the chaos.

In addition, the Mill site will be developed at some stage in the near future. This will inevitably result in many more cars travelling along \_\_\_\_\_. With the barriers in operation several times a day, how can traffic possibly flow and not be affected?

We have narrow pavements, and it is only partially paved on one side. An increase in traffic will make crossing the road even more dangerous especially for children and a senior citizen like myself.

With tailbacks I worry that emergency vehicles will struggle to gain access, and also fear that movement along \_\_\_\_\_ will be further impeded by an increase in parking - by visitors stopping to watch the trains.

Apart from the distress of stationary traffic outside my house, I am very concerned about the increase in noise and pollution in the area, especially considering that my

property, along with others on the road, will be trapped in a triangle of the A21, and the railway, all producing noise and fumes.

### **Flooding**

Another huge concern to me is the risk of flooding. Although RVR have undertaken a risk assessment of their scheme, as a victim of the flooding in 2000 I firmly object to any alteration of the flood plain and fear for Robertsbridge, and other settlements downriver where no risk assessment of the scheme has been undertaken.

It is beyond foolish to impede the flow of flood waters through the floodplain and meadows which have been purposely left undeveloped to accommodate excess water. Water has to go somewhere, it cannot be stopped, only moved on and my question is where?

### **Compulsory Purchase Order**

I do not believe that the RVR have presented a compelling case for Compulsory Purchase powers to be evoked and be used to acquire land for non-essential infrastructure.

Their economic case does not take into account the detrimental effect this proposal will have on Robertsbridge and the surrounding area. I firmly believe that visitors will begin to avoid Robertsbridge because of the traffic and parking problems, to the detriment of local businesses and shops. Although they have not mentioned this side, RVR have recently admitted that Robertsbridge will not benefit economically from this proposal at a Parish meeting I attended recently.

Although not admissible I would like it on record that I believe using Compulsory Purchase powers in this case to be morally bankrupt.

I do not understand why a bus service between Robertsbridge and Bodiam will not fulfil the needs of the RVR. This would be a cheaper option, reduce pollution, help keep our roads flowing and protect the vital floodplains which are an integral part of the Environmental Agency's plans to protect Robertsbridge from flooding.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Strangman