

From: Simon Turner
Sent: 24 May 2018 20:32
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: OBJECTION to Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Secretary of State for Transport - Chris Grayling MP

I am writing slightly late in the day on this subject as I hadn't quite appreciated the enormity of the proposed plans until very recently when I noticed local objection billboards and investigated a little further as to what these represented.

I agree with the many valid points that have already been made regarding;

- No compelling case for Compulsory Purchase powers to be used to acquire land for non essential infrastructure/hobby railway.
- No tangible economic benefit to surrounding area. RVR have also admitted that Robertsbridge would not benefit from this project.
- A total of three new level crossings, one of which will be across the busy A21. This will cause huge disruption to motorists and is contrary to the Government's and Network Rail's policy to remove as many level crossings as possible as they are deemed to be dangerous.
- Flooding risk. Reports show increased flooding potential to properties in and around Robertsbridge and Salehurst. These have not been mitigated.
- Destruction of habitats on Moat farm that have been untouched for decades.
- This is a new railway not a reinstatement as claimed by RVR. The track bed does not exist any longer.
- Requests for a public enquiry as the documents appear to be inadequate/out of date.
- Noise, smoke and diesel fume pollution from the trains and emissions from cars held up at the level crossings.

I wanted to raise a serious, and I believe very real concern over the traffic through Hurst Green and then subsequently travelling past my driveway. This already represents a significant danger to my family when leaving and entering our house.

The level crossing will have the effect of grouping large volumes of vehicles that will then travel in volume via the village of Hurst Green on to the Flimwell traffic lights. Hurst green is a village that is already under siege from traffic following the Bexhill link road and the Pembury by-pass opening. We have already noticed a significant increase in traffic levels over the last 6 months, as more traffic has adopted the A21 as their preferred route to the M25.

You will surely be aware that the Hurst Green by-pass project was cancelled (despite the fact that it clearly justified itself to the point of CPO's being executed in preparation). The village of Hurst Green is already a bottleneck and sending waves of traffic through will surely compound its existing traffic problem, increase the queues past the school (often restricted to one lane) and through the village. I should also make the obvious point that Hastings is a seaside town which attracts large volumes of traffic whenever the sun shines so not every day is representative of the overall picture.

The proposed scheme only represents negatives to local residents such as ourselves and the impacts will spread up and down the A21. A statement you can only make if you live on, and travel daily on this section of road. All this and for what real purpose, other than catering to a leisure scheme. I truly hope that sense will prevail in this matter, but should this ridiculous plan move ahead then I hope the enjoyment of the few, warrants the misery of the many. Maybe the queues of frustrated motorists will become a tourist attraction in itself.

Kind Regards

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