

obj/179



Louisa Burvill

Secretary of State for Transport,
c/o Transports and Works Act Orders Unit,
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**Ref: Rother Valley Railway. Bodiam to Robertsbridge
Junction Order**

Dear Chris Grayling MP

**I object to the RVR extension plans.
The reasons for my objection are:**

- 1. There is no real reason for the compulsory purchase order.** My belief was that there was a law to decide whether something was considered necessary as a compulsory purchase. An example of this locally is the A21 road works, making a necessary dual carriageway. This was for an extension of an extremely busy road which had continual traffic jams. It benefits everyone and was needed i.e. compulsory purchase was understandable. I struggle to understand how a hobby railway can be described as

compulsory. Therefore it does not relate to the order the RVR have instructed.

2. **No real benefit to Robertsbridge as a village or community.**

There are many claims that the railway extension will bring large sums of money into Robertsbridge. I do not believe this to be true. Robertsbridge is a lovely village with everything a local could need, including the train line to London. It does not have a variety of shops, cafes or historical sites as Tenterden and Bodiam do. The village has only one bakery where visitors could have coffee. People are mentioning being able to go to the Salehurst Halt as this was an original part of the railway. However attractive this sounds, it is a long walk and not one that many people would be able to consider.

3. **Flood risk.** Robertsbridge has suffered a copious amount from flooding. A lot of money has been spent to ensure the same disasters shouldn't be repeated. Boats were needed for people to access their homes and insurance premiums rocketed. The proposed plans even show how the flooding risks increases for certain homes. Surely this point on its own is enough to stop these works.

4. **Parking.** I live from the station and the parking is already horrendous near the railway. If people come on the train to Robertsbridge to get the steam train to Tenterden or Bodiam, this will make parking even more difficult. A round trip would be for at least 2 hours. I cannot see how this is feasible.

5. **A21 Crossing.** The recent roadworks on the A21 have been effective in promoting steady traffic flow in both directions. It is a busy road and all users must be pleased with the tremendous ease that one can travel along a previously horrendous stretch of road. To have a level crossing which stops all traffic on the road for a steam train, is ridiculous. It would be a backward step on a road where so much progress has been made.

I do hope that these objections are looked into and acted upon as I do not see how this should be allowed to go ahead.

Many Thanks

Louisa Burvill
Roberstbridge resident

