

065/180



22/5/2018

Dear Mr. Grayling,

I am writing to OBJECT to

the Rother Valley Railway plans to put a railway line through from Bodiam to Robertsbridge which incorporates a Compulsory Purchase Order.

- ① This proposed line will cross 3 roads which includes the A21 Hastings to London Trunk road and a flood plain. Back in the 70's there was a year-long enquiry which stopped this railway expansion as the A21 was too busy to have a level crossing! How can permission be given 40 years later? Traffic has increased volumes since then. This road is also one of the worst for accidents.
- ② The congestion caused by a level crossing will delay traffic in both directions especially weekends & holidays. Being a frequent visitor to the area (friends & family live in Robertsbridge & Soldhurst) I am well aware of the chaos & delays at the Robertsbridge roundabout, the queues can stretch for 2 miles in each direction! This will only be exacerbated if a crossing is added.
- ③ The proposed track goes across a flood plain which will increase flood levels from Robertsbridge to Bodiam which will threaten businesses & houses.
- ④ The RVR forecast 50,000 visitors in a concentrated time period - where will they park? There is nowhere to park now! This would cause chaos & delays to all village roads.

⑤ The RVR have admitted that there would be NO BENEFIT to Robertbridge village economically as visitors would be enroute to Bodiam & Tenkerden.

⑥ The environment would be damaged by steam & diesel emissions as the track goes through a registered A.O.N.B. polluting the habitat of many birds, plants & butterflies.

⑦ The RVR want a Compulsory Purchase Order on farmland that has been farmed for generations & the families do not want to sell.

There is no need for this expansion as it will have a huge impact on villagers, farmers, businesses & A21 users.

These 'anonymous' donors with millions to spend on their 'vanity' project should not be allowed to ruin the lives of so many ordinary people.

Is it legal to get planning permission without owning the land on which you intend to build?

How did these 'donors' persuade the local council?

Please do not allow this travesty to go ahead.

Yours sincerely