OBJ/196

21.5.18. Ref: Rother Valley Railway Robertsbridge Junction order

RECEIVED ON
24 MAY 2018
PRIVATE OFFICE

Dear Madam, Sir,

I write to you in respect of the application to install a level crossing over the A21 to accomodate a steam/diesel tourist railway.

I have concerns about how safe such a proposal would be especially in light of being involved in a fatality on the A21 after the Robertsbridge roundabout several years ago. (Another driver took an unacceptable risk resulting in a collision with the other driver losing his life as a result).

Specific calming measures is one thing but the random nature of crossing barriers will surely lead to accidents.

The pedestrian crossing lights should not be used as a comparison - they are located adjacent to the Robertsbridge roundabout and pedestrians need safe passage across the A21 from Salehurst to Robertsbridge & vice versa.

The proposed siting of the barriers could not be in a more dangerous places, an up hill point of acceleration coast bound & North bound after a bend on a "fast" piece of road.

I once applied to another authority to convert a house into a residential home, all was going well until the highways dept became involved. They & only they prevented my proposals. On enquiring why they said that their remit was to look objectively at the highway safety aspect regardless of the application.

I trust you will remain totally objective as you look at the serious safety issues involved in the crossing application.

Yours

IAN LONGLEY

Secretary of State for transport.
Local M.P. . MP for transport matters (PACTS)