

Angela Foster

OBJ/204
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From: Muriel Webster
Sent: 30 May 2018 10:33
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

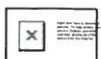
Dear Sir,

I wish to voice my objection to the proposed completion of the above line. My main objections are as follows:

1. The applicant has not made any meaningful attempt to negotiate with the land owners affected, and is instead relying upon the powers of the Transport and Works Act to acquire the rights to compulsory purchase the land. Further, the applicants have been unable to provide any documentary evidence of communications with the land owners.
2. I am also very concerned about the introduction of three level crossings over the A21, Junction Road and Northbridge Street. Given that Amber Rudd MP and Huw Merriman MP recently (March 2018) led a delegation of 16 local representatives to meet Roads Minister Jesse Norman MP to request urgent safety improvements to the A21, the introduction of a level crossing to the A21 would appear to conflict with this effort and indeed conflicts with Network Rail's own landmark level crossing reduction programme, whose 'Reducing risk at level crossings' webpage states: "If you were to build a railway today it would not have any level crossings".
3. Also, there is no point in trying to stop motorists driving diesel cars if a steam train and diesel train are going to be allowed to go through our village. The pollution which will be caused by not only the trains but also by the traffic waiting at the proposed level crossings is very worrying.
4. If, as the RVR expect, many visitors will come to Robertsbridge which is already extremely busy the village will grind to a halt as the traffic which is caused by the transport bringing the pupils to the college - at least 6 coaches bring children from surrounding villages twice daily along with parents in private cars. We also have a busy railway station which is used by commuters.
5. I understand that most of the people who work on this planned railway are volunteers therefore it will not bring any employment to the village.
6. The A21 is one of the busiest and most dangerous roads. Has any provision been made for emergency vehicles should the gates be closed?

I have been a resident here for 40 years and am aware of the number of sirens especially at weekends.

Muriel Webster



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