

06/14

From: Georgina Seligmann
Sent: 02 May 2018 14:06
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Objection to the RVR Extension Plans in the Rother Valley

Dear Mr Grayling,

I am writing to you to communicate my objections to the proposed RVR Extension Plans in the Rother Valley.

I am a resident of . As a resident I value the infrastructure in the area; the line to London, the A21 and the bypass created in the 90s and the excellent local services – they are why I and many others took the decision to buy a property in the village.

Please consider schemes which benefit the community. I moved to from London. I have been so grateful to move to a village which cares so collectively for its environment and local people.

This is not a sleepy hamlet, it is home and family to many, many people who are having something imposed on them.

I am appealing for a public enquiry into this matter, this is a Conservative seat and made up of the sorts of people the Conservative party make much of wanting to support; the just about managing, the innovative business owners, responsible farmers and plenty of ordinary working people.

I wish to register my objections to the plans on the following grounds:

Inappropriate use of a Compulsory Purchase order

RVR have not provided a compelling case of Compulsory Purchase powers to be used to acquire the land.

This is non-essential infrastructure. The land was purchased by farmers a few decades ago and cultivated into productive farm land.

This is not a reinstatement of a line, it has never existed and parliament directed a line to be established in Bodium.

There is no evidence, indeed the RVR themselves admit, that there will be any economic benefit to Robertsbridge.

Further, the farms provide jobs for local residents – the reduction in their land could result in job losses.

A21 Level Crossing

I am appalled that anyone can consider a level crossing across the A21 a good idea. The A21 is the most dangerous road in East Sussex according to the Rt Hon Huw Merriman.

The traffic disruption cannot be overstated. The A21 is single lane from Flimwell until Hastings. It causes so much daily misery for businesses and local people and is a vital link.

I cannot believe a Conservative Government with its economic record and commitment to ordinary people feels this is fair.

Have these plans been communicated to business groups dependent on the A21?

I would also argue that it 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.

Flood risk

A huge amount of tax payer money has been spent on flood defences in Robertsbridge and Salehurst. These plans threaten to increase the risk of flooding and concerns have not been mitigated.

At the very least these concerns must be addressed and assessed independently so that public money has not been wasted and homes are not threatened.

Environment risk

Habitats are threatened by the expansion plans and there will be an increase in noise, smoke and diesel fume pollution from the trains on the line and the cars held up at level crossings.

I have a 3 year old daughter. She and her generation will not understand why there is a tribute to the burning of fossil fuels running through the village. It is not something the younger generations of the village want now or will support in the future.

I can be written to at:

Georgina Seligmann

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely,



Ms G Seligmann | Compliance and HR Manager



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Georgina Seligmann