

From: nicola russell
Sent: 24 April 2018 15:09
To: POCorrespondence
Subject: Proposed extension of the Rother Valley Railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge.

Dear Chris

This is the first time in my life that I have ever been upset enough to have to write to anyone in the Government; I know that there is a group in the village who are doing alot to explain the issues to the rest of us, but it is quite a complicated issue.

Ive rather simply noted a few down that are particularly worrying me and want to share with you as soon as possible as I have been told that if this is not obstructed, it might go ahead.

The Issues:

- **Increase in Tourism Vs Parking opportunities**

The RVR and their supporters have advocated that the extension of the line to Robertsbridge (linking it with the main line service to / from London and Hastings) will increase tourism and generate employment within the village. However, whether this occurs or not, which I greatly doubt, I as a local resident am exceedingly worried about the lack of parking in our village, not only is the village car park small, there really isn't anywhere for this suggested influx of tourists to park their cars, parking is currently unsatisfactory and becoming a bit of an issue .

- **The Flood plan**

RVR also claim that the railway line will not have any effect on the surrounding countryside, yet it is proposed that it will be built on a flood plain with as yet untested flood defences. No one can predict the activity of water and the impact it may have on this medieval village. It is of great concern to me and something that deeply worries me.

- **The CPO & Land ecology**

There are many things that have caused serious concern to me about this proposed extension but none more than RVRs impending issue of a CPO to both the family and the family. Both families have farmed the land where the proposed track will go for generations and bought the land from the railway company many years ago. The installation of this line will have potentially crippling financial ramifications for the and a massive ecological effect on the land at the

I understand that a CPO may be issued to compulsory purchase land for the installation of a necessary infrastructure but I fail to see that a hobby / tourist steam (and diesel) train line is a necessary infrastructure when it will not be providing a crucial service to the local community. In fact all it will be doing is damaging the livelihood of a very hard working farming family and the ecology of the Rother Valley.

- **Traffic Problems/dangers**

I am also at a loss as to how the train proposes to cross over the A21 and North Bridge Street without causing congestion in Robertsbridge and huge tailbacks on an already congested A21.

I don't know how this works, forgive my ignorance, but I am assuming that specialists without an invested interest will be consulted and present you with an unbiased view, I do also think its important to listen to all the countryside and find out what the actual voice of the village wants too, as the people responsible for the proposed RVR aren't event local.

Yours truly,
Nicola Russell

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