

**From:** Nina Cardinale  
**Sent:** 14 May 2018 20:53  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway proposed extension

Dear Mr Grayling,

I write to you to object to the proposed extension of the Rother Valley Railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge.

I object to this development on a number of grounds:

1. A railway crossing on the A21 is blatantly a ridiculous idea. This is a road that is notorious for both the volume of traffic it carries each day and sadly for its accidents. As someone born and raised in this area I am well accustomed to the long waits that are ensued if a small set of traffic lights is placed on the road or if a large slow moving lorry is at the front of the queue. To add a railway crossing at this point on the road is sheer madness and made more so by the fact that it is being done so for a non-essential hobby railway.
2. The influx of cars to the village, at what would be a terminal end of the RVR, will cause huge parking and traffic problems where there is already very little parking at present. This will be to the detriment of locals and visitors to the village and therefore may impact local business if people driving to use the facilities from outside the village can find no place to park. There are often large vehicles needing to traverse the village - from the railway coaches in particular during the very frequent railworks already struggle to get through the village and this will only be made worse.
3. RVR have admitted that Robertsbridge village will not benefit economically from this development and it will purely be the traffic problems and pollution that the village will gain with the extension of this railway.
4. Robertsbridge was badly hit by flooding not so long ago and a lot of money was spent on flood protection. Reports have shown that this development brings with it increased flooding potential to properties in and around Robertsbridge and Salehurst. These have not been mitigated.

5. We are currently living in a time when we are acutely aware of the damage that is done to the environment and health by burning of fossil fuels. When billions is being invested in R&D work globally to reduce emissions and develop alternative fuels. It is ludicrous that the Government would even consider allowing new developments anywhere that have the impact on noise and air pollution that this development does. This would not only be from the trains themselves but also from all the vehicles sat with their engines idling at the 3 crossings that are required for this train to get to Bodiam.

I wrote to object to the initial planning application on the above grounds and continue to be in total bewilderment that this development is still being considered. Not only this, but now it appears CPO's have been issued for the farms in question which is totally incomprehensible given that this is a non essential transport development. There should be no power for compulsory purchase and resultant destruction of livelihood purely at the whims of railway hobbyists.

I ask that you put a stop to this destruction of habitats and livelihood, a development that has no economic benefit to the local area and that only serves to put money into the pockets of the developers.

Yours sincerely

Nina Cardinale

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