

From: John Hawkins
Sent: 14 May 2018 22:38
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway extension

To the Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Mr Grayling

Regarding the RVR proposed extension of the line from Bodiam to Robertsbridge, as a resident of Robertsbridge I am very concerned about these plans for a number of reasons:

1. No compelling case has been made for the use of Compulsory purchase powers in this case. The railway is not a necessary extension of infrastructure as it is a hobby/tourist project. The effect on the business of the two farms involved has been and will be devastating, both financially, and healthwise, due to stress. Moat Farm has habitats which would be destroyed by the work involved – no independent studies have been done, only those paid for by RVR.
2. There is no tangible economic benefit to Robertsbridge, which has been admitted by RVR themselves.
3. At a time when government policy is to reduce the number of level crossings due to the proven dangers, this increases the number of crossings here by 3, one of which is in Robertsbridge itself, which already has one, and one which astonishingly is on the A21 just outside the village. At a time when representations are being made to improve the A21 access to Hastings and the coast, this seems a very strange decision. It will be impossible to get to Salehurst from my house without passing 2 crossings. Also parking in the village is already problematic and this railway would exacerbate the situation.
4. There is already a problem with flooding in Robertsbridge and Salehurst. There is good evidence that this would be increased, as RVR themselves admit.
5. RVR claim this is a reinstatement of an existing railway but it is an installation of a completely new track bed, and so a new railway
6. This needs a public enquiry due to inadequate independent studies and out of date documentation.
7. Increased pollution from diesel fumes from trains and vehicle emissions at crossings.

I hope you will give very serious consideration to the devastating effects this will have on the communities of Robertsbridge and Salehurst

yours faithfully,

John Hawkins