

From: Joanna Beeching
Sent: 16 May 2018 13:12
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Joanna Beeching

16th May 2018

Dear Sir

I am writing with reference to the above TWAO for Rother Valley railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order, and would like to formally lodge an objection to the proposed plans, in the hope that the concerns here are heard by the government that represents us.

I am a resident of nearby town Battle, and have family in Robertsbridge so have close community ties and thus real worries about the project. Firstly I am concerned a decision will be made based on old, inaccurate information. Many of us locally have questioned statistics and facts within the RVR proposal but do not feel we have got satisfactory responses - examples being the length of time barriers would be down and also the reason for lack of provision for car parks (all visitors will come by train - which is unrealistic) - I very much feel that such a contentious project simply must be presented on current facts (not dated 4 years ago) and with these facts being presented by an impartial study.

I wholly object to a Compulsory Purchase order for what isn't a necessity, its not a commuter line (as a commuter myself, it will never be considered one personally) - I appreciate the need for CPO's when national infrastructure requires it, and although always unpleasant there are sometimes justifications. This simply isn't one of those scenarios. I have not seen any argument from RVR that would support a CPO here.

With family in Robertsbridge, another real risk is flooding, and we at first hand have seen the devastation it has caused the village and its residents in recent years. I would hope that an enquiry on this point is opened, we simply cannot afford to have families displaced and the flood risks increased. RVR's proposal does not appear to mitigate this, and again i believe the evidence needs to be presented by an impartial party.

Then we have the highly contentious issue of the A21 and a level crossing being placed here. I believe the data presented by RVR is old, and now inaccurate. As a regular user of this road, I could not quite believe that a level crossing could even be proposed for this stretch of road. I would request that the impact of this be thoroughly investigated by an impartial body.

Thank you for considering this letter and objection to the scheme, for which I believe is not for the greater good and will cause real harm to the community.

Yours faithfully

Joanna M Beeching