

Obj/117

Mrs. Susan Paine

18-5-18

Mr. Chris Grayling  
Secretary of State for Transport.  
[transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Grayling,

I write as a third generation resident of Robertsbridge with my objections towards the proposed Rother Valley Railway plans for the future.

My objections and concerns are as follows –

- Putting a level crossing across the A21 trunk road.

My concerns are that with this being a main trunk road with very heavy traffic it will only be more dangerous if a crossing is put in place.

On weekends and holiday times the traffic is heavier and getting into Hastings is not good at the best of times.

The A21 according to the Road Safety Foundation, 'is almost the most dangerous road in the UK.'

1100 railway crossings have been closed over recent years in the country because of safety aspects; this is certainly a concern for the local people here.

Emergency services will be affected by the closure of barriers as both the main A21 and the crossing proposed for North Bridge Street, as RVR propose there will be 14 closures a day.

Traffic lights in Hurst Green this week has caused tailbacks with traffic taking an hour to move 2 miles. This will become a normal occurrence if this crossing is allowed.

- Risk of increased flooding.

The flood plains will be completely changed if the railway goes through. The village has flood defences in place that we know work. After the floods in 2000 when many houses and properties were flooded many thousands was spent on building bunds and gates to ensure it would not happen in the village again.

If a rail embankment were to be put across the flood plain surely the flood levels would rise. This would put many properties in the village at risk.

- Rother Valley Railway run both steam and diesel trains on the line.

My concern is that the trains that run on this line are 50/50 steam/diesel. Not only will Robertsbridge have more pollution from the trains running through the countryside.

There will be more pollution from the road and traffic with the queuing traffic and traffic jams that will be caused by the railway crossing.

- Loss of farmland.

My concerns are the farmers will have their productivity vastly reduced if the train cuts through their fields.

The farmers produce arable and livestock on the farm and have done so for generations.

- Loss of wildlife and habitat.

Moat Farm has an outstanding amount of flora and fauna on their land. A railway being put through will hugely affect this. Natural habitat takes years to thrive and this is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This will be a new railway, not as RVR are saying, there is no track bed in existence now.

- What problems will it bring for the village?

RVR are estimating 50000 tourists a year will come to Robertsbridge.

There is no parking in the village now. There is no plan to make more parking. We are a commuter village and every day there are problems for the local people with cars being parked all over the village. Where will the visitor's cars go?

Who will pay for the repairs to already disintegrating roads that we have.

Who will pay for the repairs to the pathways and lanes with extra footfall? Who will pay for the extra litter pickers when the tourists come?

No more jobs will be made as volunteers run RVR.

I see no benefit to the village from this railway being passed. There are not enough businesses in the village to benefit from the trade other than 2 pubs and 2 florists. In fact the village will be worse off if you allow this to happen. Please come and meet the people of the village that are realistic and live today not in a dreamland of years gone by.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs. Susan Paine