

Shenaz Choudhary

Rep/9

From: Caroline Wood
Sent: 16 May 2018 17:47
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Re: RVR - (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Shenaz

My postal address is:

I hope this is all you need but let me know if not.

With kind regards

Caroline Wood

On 16 May 2018 at 17:15, TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
<TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Ms Wood,

Thank you for your e-mail, In order to formally register your representation we require a postal address.

Many thanks

Shenaz Choudhary



Department for Transport

Ms Shenaz Choudhary
Transport and Works Act Order

1/14, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

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From: Caroline Wood [mailto:
Sent: 16 May 2018 17:11
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT <TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT@dft.gov.uk>
Subject: RVR - (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Secretary of State,

It is with incredulity that I write to you following the news that the Rother Valley Railway (RVR) has now made an application to your Department for a Transport and Works Act order to 'construct, operate and maintain' a new railway line from Bodiam to Robertsbridge. Local planning was granted this year despite major concerns from local residents and businesses about level crossings and excessive parking in Robertsbridge.

The A21 being the one main arterial road to the South Coast is regularly blocked with accidents and delays as it is so heavily used I cannot believe that this is even being considered for anything other than a major infrastructure project. Living where we do, we consciously avoid the A21 as much as possible already but as it is the one road in and out of our area we have no real choice. The volume of traffic is very heavy at all times of the day and by adding a level crossing which will close a reported sixteen times a day this will make the situation even worse. Also, I assume this crossing will be manned rather than automatic and speaking from regular and extremely frustrating experience of the crossings at Bodiam, the gates take considerably longer to open and close than the automated 'raise and lower' gates on South Eastern lines and is particularly dependent on the speed and **attitude** of the person manning the gates! On a small country road I suppose this is acceptable but on the main route from London down to the coast??? As Hastings is one of the most deprived places in the UK surely every effort should be made to make it as easy as possible for people to visit and help businesses survive rather than slowing traffic even further. Every weekend in the summer we see frustrated day trippers stuck in queues going back to London and this proposal will only make their journey home even longer and for what? A totally unnecessary, unwanted project which offers the local residents little, damages the countryside, causes farmers issues, pollutes the atmosphere and brings yet more traffic and litter to the surrounding environment.

With regard to the parking issues, I use the South Eastern station at Robertsbridge myself and currently driving through the village as well as finding somewhere to park is already difficult because of the location of the station and the limited car parking available. Add to that, a narrow High Street which often has double decker buses for the schools regularly getting 'stuck' due to parked cars as well as replacement bus services running at the weekend, the additional potential traffic has the potential of totally ruining the village. With even more cars parking up and visitors going to an attraction at the other end of the railway line (ie Tenterden) the Robertsbridge shop keepers will lose trade as the locals will be unable to pop in to collect their shopping while the village will be full of empty cars which people will not return to for several hours. I live in Sandhurst and regularly see cars 'parked' on the grass verges near RVR Bodiam station (as visitors can't be bothered to walk from the parking which is provided) which then cause blockages and damages to the environment - we certainly don't need the same happening somewhere else.

I completely understand that we need to support business initiatives which provide employment for local people and alternative income streams for rural economies but to cause so much disruption to the countryside, our local villages and, most importantly to **our one and only main road down to the coast** for what is not even a new tourist attraction but just an extension of one is completely beyond me.

I strongly urge you to consider the points above when making your decision because, if approved, this will allow a few wealthy individuals to extend their full size train set and compromise a whole area including Hastings which is already in need of more help and support that it currently receives.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Wood

Resident and daily A21 user

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