

Re PS/18

From: Claire Warwick <Claire.Warwick@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 May 2018 16:32
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Sir or Madam

Transport Works Act (1992) Order- Rother Valley Railway, Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction, East Sussex

This response is provided on behalf of East Sussex County Council as local Highway Authority.

The application for an Order under the Transport Works Act seeks authorisation for the construction of an extension to the Rother Valley Railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge in East Sussex, to join to a section from Tenterden to Bodiam. The proposal includes three new level crossings on the A21(TR)- Robertsbridge Bypass, the B2244-Junction Road and the C18- Northbridge Street.

As I understand it, should the Order be made it would authorise the applicant to construct the proposed railway extension. The scheme currently benefits from Planning Permission.

At the time of the planning application submitted in 2014 (application no RR/14/1608), East Sussex County Council as Highway Authority raised road safety concerns about the construction of level crossings on two local roads (B2244 Junction Road and C18 Northbridge Street) that ESCC manages.

Through discussions with the applicant, the Local Planning Authority (Rother District Council) and Highways England (then the Highways Agency,) ESCC agreed that it would not object to planning permission being granted for the railway, subject to a number of planning conditions and the need for the applicant to enter into a s278 agreement with ESCC so as to complete the necessary works on the highway. Planning consent was granted by Rother District Council in March 2017.

The conditions relating to highway matters included the need for:

- A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to be agreed prior to commencement of development and in operation throughout the construction phase.
- Controlled delivery times of plant and materials during construction
- Queue length monitoring at the Level Crossings for three years with remedial measures as necessary
- A Level Crossing Operational Management Plan to be submitted and agreed prior to commencement of development
- Stage 3 and 4 Road Safety Audits and remedial measures as needed
- Traffic calming on approach to the level crossings on the B2244 and C18 including a speed limit review. All works to be agreed and secured by a s278 agreement
- A Travel Plan to be agreed prior to opening of the railway and in operation on the railway being brought into use and in accordance with ESCC Travel Plan Guidance.

There is little detail relating to these highway conditions within the application for the TWAO and we have not been able to establish whether such matters need to/can be considered as part of the process of considering the Order. As such ESCC requires that either this information is submitted and agreed by ESCC prior to the Order being made or that confirmation is given that the conditions and requirements of the planning permission are still valid and will need to be agreed/resolved/in place in accordance with that planning permission.

I am also aware that a number of Public Rights of Way (footpaths and bridleways) are affected by the proposed railway. The applicant's intentions with regard to the continued use of these routes is not detailed in the submissions. Diversions and/or structures to allow continued access should be agreed with East Sussex County Council.

While East Sussex County Council does not object to the RVR development and the proposed TWA Order (subject to the proviso in the previous paragraphs), we do require that the road safety, transport and PRow matters are suitably addressed.

Yours faithfully,

Claire

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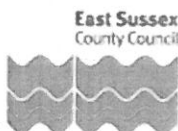
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