

Angela Foster

SOPP/122

From: Mark Riches
Sent: 27 May 2018 13:50
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT; TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: RE: Rother Valley Railway

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to express my **SUPPORT** for the Rother Valley Railway project to re-connect Robertsbridge and Bodiam.

Having this re-connection to a National Rail station will in my view provide a valuable boost to the utility of the steam railway, with consequent tourism economic benefits to East Sussex and Kent. I believe that the experience of other heritage railways in the South East being re-connected to National Rail (such as with the Bluebell Railway extension to East Grinstead and the Spa Valley Railway extension to Eridge) support this contention. I believe that, in particular, the re-connection with National Rail services from London will allow less well-off people from London (and elsewhere) to be able to access the Kent countryside entirely by train. Further, the re-connection will encourage those who might otherwise travel by car to make the journey and experience the Kent countryside and Bodiam Castle entirely by train.

It is also I believe worthy of note that the increasing number of these railway re-connections of previously closed lines (whether heritage railway or National Rail) is bound to have a multiplier effect in relation to sustainable transport inter-connectedness. The project in question is a worthy one for this additional reason.

I would thus urge you to give the necessary approvals.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Mark Riches

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
