



Supp / 136

29th May 2018

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport and Works Act Orders Unit,

The Transport and Work Act 1992 RVR (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Jcn) Order

Dear Sir,

I wish to support the application by the the Rother Valley Railway Ltd for a TWA Order because of the benefit to the local economy around Robertsbridge and reduce traffic caused by visitors to Bodiam castle and Tenterden.

As a visitor to Robertsbridge over many years I have seen the decline of businesses in the High Street caused partly by the lack of visitors to this attractive and accessible by public transport village. With tourism a major industry in the Weald area of Kent, developing tourist related businesses in Robertsbridge as a result of establishing a tourist railway would provide a boost the local economy and also reduce traffic congestion on the very narrow lanes in the area.

The main objections seem to be from motorists unaware of the agreement not to run trains across the A21 during peak times. The road already suffers from much congestion and a brief delay for a train to cross will only lead to motorists joining the next queue a little later. In fact it may well enable motorists on minor roads to join the main road more quickly. Other objectors seem to be motorcyclists and others who use the parallel B2244 as a high speed rat run and fear their race track would be slowed by the presence of a level crossing. Slowing traffic would encourage more use of the footpaths which cross this road as well as improving safety.

The other objectors seem to be the two landowners of the section between the A21 and the B2244 who seem to have stirred up some local opposition amongst ill-informed people about the very minor effect that a few trains a day might have on their lives. Very few properties will be overlooked by the railway and the trackbed is paralleled for much of the way by public footpaths. The claim that this will spoil a quiet rural part of the country seems to be disproved by the section of line already open from Tenterden to Bodiam. Also one landowner is developing an industrial estate on the land close to the former railway trackbed – see photo attached taken from the public footpath near the trackbed, in mid-May this year.

Yours faithfully, Albyn Austin

