

From: Richard Williams
Sent: 31 May 2018 16:53
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

I am writing as a Hastings & Rye constituent to express my strong SUPPORT for the TWAO application to reinstate the railway between Robertsbridge and Bodiam, and for a level crossing to be installed on the A21.

My main reasons for this support are the obvious economic benefits to the local economy, the absolutely minimal impact on motorists, and the environmental benefits of KESR visitors arriving by train rather than car.

I have traveled on the A21 hundreds of times. I have also spent periods of my life in South West London, where lines such as the Waterloo-Feltham main line have many level crossings on very busy roads, with perhaps 15-20 closures per hour, including rush hour. And so it is very clear to me that a total of 10 closures PER DAY, during the restricted months of KESR operation, and with peak hours specifically excluded, would be an absolutely minuscule inconvenience for Hastings-bound motorists. At the same time, they would share in the economic benefits of increased tourism to our region.

As a constituent, I am greatly pained and disappointed that our excellent and outstanding MP has taken a position against this application. I am quite sure that had she familiarized herself with the work of the RVR in person, she might have nuanced that position.

While I have no connection with the RVR or KESR personally, I have taken some time to find out about their work before making this submission, and to speak with an RVR representative. It seems abundantly clear that these are professional, dedicated volunteers, who are making outstanding efforts to help celebrate Britain's pioneering railway heritage, and to give a much-needed economic lift to the area.

And that leads me to the most important reason to uphold the application – the enhancement to the general quality of life that such projects bring. Everything possible should be done to encourage visitors to experience Britain's railway history in our beautiful Sussex countryside. The RVR link will give a critical boost to this. It should be firmly supported.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Williams

Dr. Richard Williams

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