Shenaz Choudhary Supp 101

From: Simon Fisher
Sent: 25 April 2018 12:51
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam and Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Secretary of State

As a longstanding supporter of railway development, I wish to SUPPORT the application by Rother Valley Railway for a Transport and Works Act Order Application to reinstate the railway between Robertsbridge Junction and Bodiam, providing direct rail services between Tenterden, Robertsbridge and beyond
The new rail link will bring significant transport and economic benefits to residents and visitors to the High Weald AONB and adjoining settlements.

The existing reinstated Kent & East Sussex Railway between Bodiam and Tenterden has not "destroyed" the impressive countryside, nor will the restored Bodiam to Robertsbridge rail link.

The two sections of this missing link, from Bodiam to Junction Road and from Northbridge Street to Robertsbridge Junction have been reinstated to the highest construction and design standards. Planning, building standards and environmental requirements will ensure that the remainder is built to the same standards. The project will not be detrimental to flood prevention in Robertsbridge or elsewhere. Traffic impact will be minimised by controls on the hours of operation of the A21 level crossing and by approved traffic calming measures.

Within the context of the Transport and Works Act Order and the project specification, the interests of existing landowners should be safeguarded. In the regrettable absence of land acquisition agreements between Rother Valley Railway and two landowners, generous compensation should be paid via statutory procedures . Sufficient railway crossing points should be provided for agricultural workers and vehicles commensurate with the protection of natural habitats; also with pedestrian, equestrian, vehicular and railway safety.

Following lengthy public consultation, planning permission for the project was granted by Rother District Council on 16th March 2017, taking into account the objections and concerns raised by landowners and other objectors, alongside the widespread support for the scheme.
The issues considered in the determination of planning application RR/2014/1608/P have not materially changed and the justification for the scheme remains as strong as previously.

I therefore strongly support the current Transport and Works Act Order Application to progress the project.

Yours sincerely

Simon Fisher

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