

From: E and H Luke
Sent: 12 May 2018 13:06
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of this proposal.

My reasons for supporting the proposal are:

- this line is an important piece of railway heritage and deserves support and encouragement,
- the through route from Robertsbridge to Tenterden will bring additional tourists to an area which needs tourism in order to thrive economically,
- the connection with the main line at Robertsbridge will encourage people to visit using the existing rail network, thus helping to keep vehicles off the overcrowded roads,
- the various heritage railways in the area are an important source of local employment (full and part-time) and this will be enhanced and increased by this development,
- the development is privately financed,
- the development will bring general economic benefits to the area both during the construction phase and, on an ongoing basis, once it is operational
- railway embankments and cuttings are important places where wildlife can flourish.

I also feel that the opponents of the scheme are seriously overstating the validity of their objections. In particular I feel that the anticipated problems of a level crossing over the A21 are not nearly as great as is claimed. The various heritage railway operators involved with this line are already very experienced in managing and operating such crossings and the trains will not be timetabled to cross the A21 at peak times.

There will be negligible impact on the privacy of the landowners who are reluctant to sell the relevant land to the railways.

Yours faithfully,
Havdon Luke.



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