

From: Paul Beale
Sent: 13 May 2018 20:16
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Subject: RVR - TWO / CPO Support

To Whom it may concern;

Having observed a significant quantity of for want of a better way of putting it (in my opinion), unfounded scaremongering regarding the reconnection of the Robertsbridge to Bodiam section of line, I would like my comments of support to be logged and acknowledged. They are as follows;

- The economic benefit for local Robertsbridge business since the A21 bypass has made it hard. The injection of tourists has been proven to be a success on other lines (eg: The Bluebell connecting with East Grinstead) to the town.
- A friend who lives in Northiam commented to me that "It would be great if one day, I could go to work in Tonbridge by train". Ok, the planning does not allow this, but he could take the family out off peak by public transport occasionally. Maybe in years to come it could be an option, so what inhibit the potential?
- A21 Crossing – I see the proper surveys suggest it'll cause no additional disruption. I tend to agree, as being stuck behind a tractor or HGV up the hill out of Robertsbridge adds more delay. Might I suggest a few times a day off peak is trivial compared to the traffic lights or slow moving traffic and pensioner drivers. Personally, I'm not bothered at all. Maybe banning tractors and slow vehicles during the day would be a better idea and yield better results?
- From what I can recall historically, before the farmers bought the land there was a constructive offensive to ensure the line was never re-instated, knowing at the time a push was on to re-open. Seems a bit rich to make such bold claims about unable to farm and all the flood issues when it was in place originally and only removed in recent years.
- A work colleague seeing all the hype commented to be that "I'm looking forward to it" and "basically if you go to the meeting and support it, you'll be shot down in flames". He'd love to see it in the village (and suggests a lot of other think it would be good too) and from what I can see the RVR have to asked for support, however those that object have tried to stir as much (often untrue) stuff as possible to stop it. Presumably as a last ditch attempt.
- Just of interest, is this the same Ainslie's that have a planning application for 160 homes in Bexhill (I failed to confirm either way from speculation)? -If so, it seems a bit NIMBY to object to this given the environmental damage on that application.....

Please register my unreserved support for this reinstatement.

Mr P Beale