

From: Trevor Griffin
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:02
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: reception@rvr.org.uk
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam and Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of this Order.

I should first declare that:

- I have been a member of the Kent and East Sussex Railway Association and the former Preservation Society since 1961.
- Although not an active member I have intervened in the past in support of the long held ambition to complete the railway from Tenterden through to the main line railway at Robertsbridge.
- I was employed in the railway industry from 1970 until 2006, latterly as an engineering consultant.
- I was born in East Sussex and know the area of the proposal very well.
- I do not drive a car and therefore believe that the needs of those whose mobility and leisure activities depend on using public transport should be weighed carefully against any inconveniences for those who do drive.

I support the Order for the following reasons:

1. The significant benefit to the local economy that will ensue and which has been demonstrated in part by the fact that the Kent and East Sussex Railway is already attracting tourists to the area in large numbers.
2. The value of a link to the national rail network providing direct access from London, Hastings and elsewhere to Bodiam Castle and Tenterden (with stations at car park walking distance from each) as well as the railway itself. This could be of growing importance in the future if car travel becomes more expensive.
3. The unique historic importance of completing the restoration of the Rother Valley Railway which was the first railway to make use of the Light Railway Act of 1896 and is now the only heritage railway to preserve a full length independent standard gauge light railway into modern times, complete with original station buildings and other features.

I would also comment that any person who has bought land along the line of the proposed route since 1961 would have done so in full knowledge that a scheme to revert it to railway use existed.

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Griffin