

From: Alan Garner
Sent: 21 May 2018 08:40
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of the above application. Having recently visited the Kent and East Sussex Railway in Tenterden, it is evident that traffic congestion in Tenterden and on the surrounding roads is a problem. Reopening the line to Robertsbridge would enable visitors to travel to the line by train and reduce traffic on the local roads.

Although it does involve a level crossing on the A21, this would only be closed for a few minutes per days and only on operating days. Moreover it would be very close to a roundabout that already slows traffic down and so the difference in travel time would be minimal. The railway does not operate during the peak times in any event.

It would also encourage tourists to visit Robertsbridge and boost the local economy, which has suffered as a result of the A21 by-pass. As they would be arriving by train, it will not add to the parking problems in the town.

In addition it would enable tourists to visit Bodiam Castle by train, which is not currently possible except by parking at Tenterden. The roads in the area are very poor and parking can be a problem at the Castle.

The railway embankment would also provide a protected wild life corridor along the line. Farmland is generally very poor for wild life and the creation of connections is very important in allowing animals to move around safely.

I trust you will approve the above application,

Yours faithfully,

Mr A F Garner

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