

SOPPI 65



15th May 2018

Re Application transport And Works app for Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order.

Dear Sir /Madam

I am writing in **Full Support** of the above application to reinstate the remaining section of the Rother Valley Railway between Junction Road and Robertsbridge.

The financial benefits to local fringe businesses in Robertsbridge and Salehurst from the expenditure by visitors and tourists will enhance few remaining small traders and possibly create growth with more local seasonal employment.

The reinstatement of the railway line will ensure that ditches and culverts will be well maintained, vegetation controlled and reduce flood risks.

More visitors will be able to visit the area by national rail links via Robertsbridge, this could reduce car travel to Bodiam and Tenterden, and financially assist the railway network, as it has occurred for example on the Bluebell railway link at East Grinstead and the Isle of Wight Heritage Railway.

The level Crossing issue on A21, this would be professionally operated and no disruption would occur during peak times. In fact when operational the crossing will actively enforce the speed regulations and discourage the current race track culture between Robertbridge and St Johns.

On a personal note, I give some time voluntary at Tenterden supporting the KESR and also local community and church regular activities in the Rye area, Peasemmarsh and Northiam. To do such I have to travel by car as feasible railway/bus connections are non existent from London. If the Robertsbridge link is established, I could drop at least 35 car trips to Kent and East Sussex each year, and use South East trains and local bus where possible.

I do hope that this application is accepted as the benefits will greatly assist the folks within the Rother Valley district.

Thank You
Mr.S.C.Tombleson.