

From: christopher strangeways
Sent: 25 May 2018 09:26
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: Amber Rudd; chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

I am writing to support the proposed TWAO application to create a railway crossing of the A21 to link Robertsbridge to Bodiam and beyond by a railway.

My main reasons for supporting this are :

Bodiam Castle and the surrounding area of the Rother Valley including Robertsbridge are important tourist areas much of it set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The local road network is very limited in capacity and any transfer from private cars to public transport to access this area and its many attractions is to be welcomed.

The Rother Valley Railway Company is an excellent example of a company – not motivated by profit – that engages with the local community and provides many of them an opportunity for healthy voluntary work. It may attract one or two wealthy patrons but its main support is from ordinary members of the local community – young and old. It is a force for good and should be encouraged.

The potential delay caused by this crossing is insignificant. The traffic lights at Flimwell and the nearby pedestrian crossing cause much more. The particular stretch of road it crosses is one small section of the A21 where cars tend to travel at higher speed than the average speed of the A21 and some form of calming could increase safety.

The extension of the railway will bring significant economic benefits to Robertsbridge and the surrounding area.

I could go on but

There is some opposition to this scheme (including – for reasons I fail to understand some local politicians) . It seems quite extraordinary to me that these good people want to oppose this excellent project for the sake of an insignificant delay on a trunk road.

I hope this scheme is one of many that will begin to see a significant transfer from road to public transport in this area. Tourism without Traffic is supported by all.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Strangeways