

Suppl 87.



Mr Craig Tyler

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Transport and Works Act Order Unit
General Counsel's Office
Department for Transport
Zone 1/18, Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR

Transport and Works Act Order submitted by
the Rother Valley Railway Company

I write in support of the Transport and Works Act Order for which the Rother Valley Railway Company have recently submitted with regard to completing "the missing link" between the Kent and East Sussex Railway and the Rother Valley Railway on, for me, two of the most important fringes points.

As a younger member of the community, the Kent and East Sussex Railway has and continues to, provide me with unique opportunities which started at quite a young age. Such opportunities have generated skills which I have been able to easily transpose into the workplace which has furthered not only my career but my academic and personal skills at the same time. The chance for the railway to be opened to other communities, such as Salaburgh and Robertsbridge, giving even more young people in a (fairly) isolated location unless you own a car, is just too good to miss.

It is often said in local communities that one rural, opportunities for young people lack in most areas. The extension that is proposed, promises to be a fix for such an issue. Employers, in the current climate, are constantly looking for candidates to fill their vacancies who have work experience. Volunteering at the railway has not only given me hands on and practical skills, but also business skills for running such a large and complex operation that were taught, and learnt in a fun, friendly and engaging environment which keeps the younger generation interested with a will power to continue and progress.

The second part of my letter supporting the proposed extension focuses on the financial aspects that the proposed extension is set to bring to the local communities. I would like to start by referring to the 'Stear Davis Fleure' report which details the economic impact that the proposed extension would bring. £4.1 million per year is the estimated overall public benefit. One only has to open a news paper or watch the news to see that high streets (both in major and minor) communities around the country are suffering and trying to make the best with the resources that they have available to them in what is, arguably, a challenging but hopeful and growing, economy.

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I believe it is every citizen's duty to promote the country's economy and we can start by doing that with our local economies. The proposed extension has the capability to do that. Tontard's High Street, Northiam's local economy, Bodiam Castle (connecting people from all over the United Kingdom by rail to another fantastic piece of history) and Satchhurst's and Robertsbridge's local economies all stand to draw great benefit from the proposed extension due to the extra tourism traffic to the area. From outside the local community to keep those local, and much valued, businesses alive.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for taking the time to read my letter of support for the proposed extension. And, I look forward to hearing the outcome of the Transport and Works Act Order that has been submitted by the Rother Valley Railway Company.

Yours Faithfully,

Telephone:

E-Mail: