

Angela Foster

5088/95.

**From:** Martin Butler  
**Sent:** 29 May 2018 20:12  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother valley Railway proposed extension to Robertsbridge

Dear sir, I wish to register my support for the re opening of this section of railway .

It is my view that the Town of Robertsbridge and the surrounding area will benefit from the return of the railway. For every £1 spent on Britain's heritage railways , £2.50 is spent in local shops, pubs and other eateries, I wish to make comment about some of the remarks made by the protesters and land owners

1 Wildlife, its a well known fact that a very rarely used railway is a green corridor and as such attracts wild life, the railway will only run from late morning to 4 pm when operating, so no hi speed services, trains will be restricted to 25 mph, so pose no threat to wild life,

2 The track bed, Currently the track bed is disused so no work has been done on drainage increasing the likelihood of flooding if the railway gets reopened then work will be done to increase the flood defences and management of the land the railway occupies .At the moment much of the track bed in question is unused and remains as purchased with very little done to reclaim it. Photos obtained from aerial survey show this, in marked contrast to the public statements of the land owners .

Heritage railways such as the KESR, who will operate the line have a very good public safety record and create a business that is worth millions to this countries economy , Have very good relations with land owning neighbours and are known to be safe . its in their interest to be good neighbours ,

So to conclude, I find the fears of the protesters to be unfounded and inaccurate, there is a public crossing just round the corner from the proposed A21 level crossing, this is used 150 times a day, 7 days a week where as the level crossing will be operated 8 times a day outside of the peak traffic times, most of the time week ends only and controlled from cctv the closed time is said to be only a few minutes so traffic congestion will be minimal .

Yours faithfully

Martin N Butler

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