

Caroline O'Neill

OST/1001.

From: P. Christensen
Sent: 31 May 2018 12:43
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT; chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk
Cc: Huw MERRIMAN; amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Objection Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order)

31/05/2018

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport,
c/o Transports and Works Act Orders Unit,
General Counsel's Office,
Department for Transport Zone 1/18,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 4DR

Dear Mr Grayling

Objection Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order)

I am writing to object to the above mentioned proposal to allow the extension of this hobby railway through private property without the consent of the owners and across busy public highways without clear widespread public benefit or support.

This is a new railway proposal, it is not a reinstatement nor is it a transport link with clear and viable public benefit. There is no compelling case to use the government power of a compulsory purchase order to force the current property owners to allow the non essential expansion of this local steam railway enthusiasts tourist attraction through their property. Property ownership is a keystone in our culture here in the UK and where it is essential and unquestionably for the greater public good to use the power of a compulsory purchase order, indeed it should be used. In this case, compelling the farmers that own this land to sell a right of way to enhance this minor tourist attraction, it would be seen by the vast majority of your parliamentary colleagues constituents here in East Sussex as an abuse of this government power.

The proposed level crossing of the A21 will have a significant impact on the local residents and businesses beyond the Robertsbridge area. You will be well aware of the poor safety record of the A21. Adding a level crossing to the A21 will impact tourism as, apart from the day to day disruption, it will cause bank holiday traffic nightmares for all who would like to enjoy the many other attractions that East Sussex has to offer.

The Environmental Impact of this unnecessary proposal will be immense. There will be a loss of habitat in woodland, hedgerows and ponds. The carbon emissions increase, which you will be aware is a very key factor in any local planning policy currently, will be significant. The CO2 from vehicles sitting stationary at level crossings will impact the area as well.

I strongly urge you not to support this proposal.

Yours Sincerely

Philip & Jayne Christensen

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