

Caroline O'Neill

DB / 1005

**From:** Emily Barnes  
**Sent:** 30 May 2018 22:07  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

I'd like to make known my objection to the planned RVR railway line between Bodiam and Robertsbridge.

As a resident of Robertsbridge I see on a daily basis the problems with parking in a vibrant and busy village. The roads and lanes weren't built for the volume of traffic and residents that the village now has. By extended the line to Robertsbridge I believe the village will just become a car park for people using the steam train.

I live on Northbridge Street where one of the proposed level crossings would be and I object to having my route into the village cut off at certain parts of the day. The steam engine is bad enough but also the build up of traffic waiting to pass through will be noisy and will increase pollution.

We live in a high risk flood area and I don't feel that enough research has been done to reassure residents that the building of a train line through the flood plain will not increase flood risks. It's currently hard to find insurance companies that will agree to insure our home. This can only make matters worse. My partner and I were severely affected by the 2013 floods whilst living in Tonbridge and I live in fear of that happening again in our new home. To upset the balance of the flood defences in a vulnerable area seems hugely irresponsible and dangerous.

I think the idea of putting a level crossing on the A21 is just madness. It's an incredibly busy road that desperately needs to be made into a dual carriageway in its entirety, not to be impeded by antiquated technology. Level crossings are dangerous and I find it very surprising that this has been given permission thus far.

4 months ago I gave birth in Hastings. As I approached my due date it was, and still is, hugely important for us to be able to get to the hospital as quickly as possible in case of emergency. With a level crossing in place potentially blocking our route and causing major tailbacks on the A21 and Northbridge Street, I wouldn't be confident that this would be possible which is very worrying.

Lastly I would like to express my disgust at the way the Robertsbridge landowners have been treated with regards to these plans. To even contemplate a compulsory purchase order in these circumstances is so shocking to me. This is not vital infrastructure. This is not a new road, hospital or even parking. This is a steam train that will be a fun afternoon out for some people but that threatens to split our village in two.

My address for correspondence in this matter is:

Kind regards  
Emily Barnes