

Angela Foster

05/1721

From: Jennifer Carter [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2018 18:48
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway - application to build a railway line from Robertsbridge to Bodiam

The Rt Hon Chris Grayling
Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to express my objections to the application for a Transport and Works Act Order to allow the construction of a railway line by the Rother Valley Railway from Robertsbridge to Bodiam.

I object on the following grounds:

Safety; The A21 is frequently cited as one of the most dangerous roads in the UK. At a time when Network Rail are reducing the number of level crossings as a safety measure it seems nonsensical to introduce one across the major trunk road linking the area with the M25. The A21 is frequently subject to frustrating delays and a level crossing will only increase these. In excess of £70 million has recently been spent on dualling the A21 at Pembury and North Farm to great effect. It beggars belief that a few miles down the same road a level crossing built to satisfy a group of hobby railway enthusiasts will bring traffic to a halt once again.

Lack of infrastructure; Robertsbridge will bear the brunt of increased traffic and disruption but there is no provision for additional car parking.

Questionable economic benefit; Rother Valley Railways expect most passengers to alight at Bodiam or Tenterden and the railway is staffed by volunteers so no new jobs will be created.

Environmental damage; damage to local flora and fauna. Also increased risk of flooding. No financial contribution from Rother Valley Railway to offset any need for increased flood defences.

Criteria for Compulsory Purchase Order; Rother Valley Railways's proposal does not deliver the social, environmental and economic well being which would warrant the scheme being deemed to be in the public interest and justify the granting of a compulsory purchase order.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Carter
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