

Angela Foster

06/1731

From: Dee [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2018 20:57
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Mr Grayling,

I am writing with regards to the above and to register not just my objection to this ludicrous proposal but my amazement as to how exactly it has actually got this far in planning. It beggars belief but also [REDACTED] thus allowing [REDACTED] private owned land in order to fulfil their [REDACTED] to play with [REDACTED]

I question the sanity of people who think that installing a level crossing across any section of the A21 is a good idea. There are lots of arguments suggesting the crossing would only be used in off-peak times & would only cause a delay of a matter of minutes but we simply cannot afford ANY delays on the A21. It is the only, major, single road out of Hastings towards London. Traffic would come to a grinding halt and then would take a long while after the gate has gone up to get back up to speed, hence creating a tailback. It is also impossible to overtake on the A21 for many many miles after, up until the dual carriageway at the Lamberhurst roundabout. The A21 is already an extremely dangerous road with numerous accidents each year. Creating such tailbacks would only encourage even more wreckless driving and hence more accidents. My sons used to attend a nursery on the A21 (Kent Street) & I would regularly have to sit in traffic in the aftermath of a RTA. It is impossible to turn off onto an alternative route & a 15 minute journey would soon turn into 90 mins or more as the emergency services would often struggle to make it to the accident site. In another instance, whilst heavily pregnant with my second child and pulling out onto the A21 having picked my eldest son up, I was almost hit side-on by a very aggressive driver who came speeding up over the brow of the hill. He proceeded to overtake me and almost smashed head-on into a HGV coming in the opposite direction. I had to slam on the brakes to allow him to pull in front of me. He then stopped his car causing me to brake suddenly & the van behind me stopped inches behind me. After a min or two he drove off at breakneck speed. When I reported it to the police they weren't interested. People already take such chances on this road. Please don't allow for there to be another reason for people to overtake unsafely.

I understand that any objection to the CPO proposed will not be taken into account in this instance but I would like to also register my utter disapproval at such abhorrent actions. Surely it is an abuse of power somewhere along the line to allow this when this project is clearly a profit making enterprise for some private investors. Not everyone can afford the prices of the train fares on this line. It is an expensive day out for a family of four. Hastings is already considered a hugely deprived area and yet again the poor suffers. How does anyone on low income benefit from this scheme? They are not going to be offered jobs. They can't afford the luxury of travelling on a steam train. But yet they will have to stop awhile and watch the few who can afford such frivolities swan by. When a housing developer wants to build new homes he or she is expected to pay a contribution towards social housing or the local area. What exactly is this scheme contributing to social economics?

Mr Grayling, I implore you to use your good sense to reject this scheme and to recognise it for all its faults and the livelihoods and the lives it could potentially wreck, the delays it would cause leading to wreckless driving and the damage to the environment, to name but a few.

On a personal note, I moved from London to Hastings about 7 years ago. Hastings has always had a bad rap and is seen as the poorer relation to neighbouring towns such as Rye, Eastbourne and Brighton. It is such an amazing place and the people who live here have such pride & worked so hard to bring Hastings up to be the vibrant town it has become. The story of rebuilding the pier would enforce that fact. Many people I know, including myself have given up well-paid careers in London to live here. The transport links to London are not the best & have put many people off from commuting. Likewise it has also put people off from moving here. Admittedly that has been our choice. But please don't allow this train line to make it even harder for the wonderful people of Hastings, the town itself, and surrounding areas to survive when we are already living on the bare minimum in terms of transport links.

Please give Hastings a fighting chance. We've come so far.

So now I have to put my two young sons to bed, and it's late because I've been writing this. Such is my determination to get this objection sent off that I now run the risk of having to put up with two very grumpy young men in the morning. Now THAT alone is worth rejecting the proposal, believe me. Tired boys are never a good thing, especially after their 'Spy Kid Training' all day today. (At what age do MI5 start recruiting?) And they may think that with Mommy typing on her phone allowing them extra time on the iPad is a good thing, but by morning when they're over-tired & moody, they'll realise otherwise. [REDACTED]

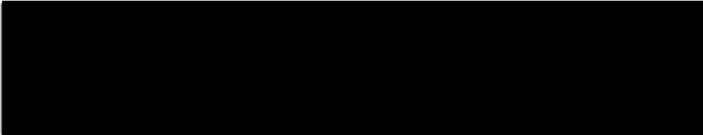
[REDACTED] Such is the sacrifice I have undertaken.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward to a positive response.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Dee Le Lacheur



Sent from my iPhone

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
