

Caroline O'Neill

065/754

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2018 16:40
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: RVR - Robertsbridge extension - OBJECTION

To The Secretary of State

I am writing to lodge my objection to the proposed construction of the railway line across the flood plain from Robertsbridge to Bodiam under a Transport and Works Act Order.

My primary objection is on grounds of safety relating to the introduction of 3 new level crossings. All three are dangerous as evidenced by Network Rail's policy to remove level crossings across the country on grounds of the danger they create. But that one is being proposed on the A21 seems quite extraordinary for the Transport Department to even consider.

My secondary objection relates to general additional congestion in the area and lack of parking at the proposed "Robertsbridge station" impacting on the local village of Robertsbridge and its inhabitants.

My third objection, but by no means less significant indeed potentially more devastating and long-term, relates to the environmental impact.

This includes increased risk to an already flood-risk area and threatening the village flood defences (completed at very high cost as recently as 2000).

It further includes the destruction of some unique farm, flower meadow and woodland painstakingly reinstated under the Natural England Higher Stewardship scheme at personal cost to local farmers for the benefit of society as a whole as well as the many flora and fauna species directly benefiting. Surely this is what you, the Secretary of State, should be fighting to protect and not the extra footfall that the Rother Valley Railway representative admitted would primarily benefit Bodiam and Tenterden.

Please confirm my trust in the due democratic process and Government accountability that ensures the best is done for society now and in the future.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Fairbairn
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