

Caroline O'Neill

Obj/761

From: Michael Putland [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2018 19:41
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: chairman@salehurst-pc.org.uk; huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk;
amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Mr Grayling

I would like to express my grave concern at the proposed compulsory purchase of privately and long held family farmland at Robertsbridge to make way for a hobby and enthusiasts railway line.

My personal objections are:

Principal - the use of government powers to compulsory purchase land for a project that is not for the common good of our country's infrastructure, appears inappropriate.

Safety - the A21 is one of the most dangerous roads in the UK, yet for a hobby railway it is proposed to place a level crossing near a busy roundabout crossing the A21. Accidents on stretches of road leading up to and from the crossing are inevitable when cars have been stuck once again in queues on this trunk route.

Pollution - slow and stationary traffic is known to cause increased pockets of pollution from cars, coaches and lorries pumping out fumes.

Flooding - Robertsbridge is well known as a flooding hotspot, indeed my step daughter visited it recently as part of her geography school trip studying flooding in East Sussex! Engineering works to create a railway purely for pleasure of a few, will no doubt increase the risk of localised flooding in this already vulnerable area.

Environmental damage - much of the farmland under threat has been farmed by the same family for generations, areas have been left untouched to provide habitats for numerous native wildlife species.

Thank you for reading my concerns, that I hope you will be in a position to take into account when reviewing this well funded but of minority benefit project.

Yours sincerely

Michael

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Michael Putland
[REDACTED]
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