

05/17/62

From: Liz Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2018 20:00
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Cc: jane.mccullough@rother.gov.uk; huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk;
cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk; amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge junction)

Dear Mr Grayling,

I am writing to add my concerns to those of numerous others to the proposed Rother Valley rail link between Bodiam and Robertsbridge. My concerns are principally on environmental grounds, explicitly to the destruction of local habitats, and the increase in pollution and road congestion during the construction and running of the railway.

I would have thought in my opinion getting trains to run on time should be a priority or mending all the pots holes, not supporting a hobby railway. We should support our environment by keeping areas of natural beauty not digging these up to run polluting diesel trains. Surely this works against government policy to decrease air pollution, and limit the impact of climate change on global warming. Moreover, recent government has been taken to reduce harmful diesel emissions on this country's roads, it is inconsistent, therefore, that a light railway should be allowed to run using diesel engines and coal steam engines.

I also have concerns over the impact of congestion to the A21 as in the summer this road is already very busy. I used to live in Northiam where I was required to use this road daily to get to my job in a small village off the A21. The number of accidents along the A21 are significant already without adding another obstacle which would slow traffic down. 3 level crossings could cause accidents and slow down this major road link to Hastings 'even more than the already heavy daily traffic does.

I would hope that a proper Public inquiry and an independent survey will follow and the farmers will not be railroaded into having to sell their land and all their concerns and that of local residents will be covered and listened too.

I would urge you to find time in your busy schedule to visit this tranquil peace of East Sussex and see what people are objecting too, I'm sure The Hoad family and Mrs Emma Ainslie would love to show you their farms so you can fully understand their objections. Moat farm is idyllic it has no roads is completely land locked, full of wildlife amazing old oak trees being farmed for the next generation to appreciate. There are also valid concerns over flooding as well and this recent bad weather must only exacerbate these concerns.

If my understanding is correct I also have concerns about how planning permission can be granted on land that is not owned by the person applying for it, this is wrong, money should not buy power, bullies should not get their way, the under dog should have their voice heard and reason and common sense should prevail.

Thank you for reading my letter

Elizabeth Wood
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