

**From:** james allfrey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 May 2018 20:57  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway (Bodium to Robertsbridge Junction Order)

30 May 2018

Miss E Harrison  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Grayling

**Objection to planned extension of Rother Valley Railway**

I am formally writing to make my objections to the extension of the Rother Valley Railway, there are several reasons why I feel you should decline the planning permission to Rother Valley Railway to extend their unneeded railway through our beautiful village and surroundings countryside.

**Crossing the A21**

The A21 is a major route from London to the South East, adding a level crossing to this road would cut the artery for transport, cause unnecessary congestion and gridlock through the single-laned high street village at several points making it impossible to gain access or leave homes and businesses. This is a small village which actively encourages our children to walk outside using local facilities, woodland and fields to play in, we feel safe to walk along the roads with our children, the traffic jams caused but the crossing will cause increased risk to pedestrians and raise pollution levels from the waiting cars along our high street/Northbridge Street effecting the homeowners and people of the village.

**Increase air and Noise Pollution**

Through increased waiting traffic and diesel/steam trains passing through are village. Without forgetting the pollutants that come off the engines whilst they are running.

**Parking in the village**

Parking in the village is currently inefficient, adding more vehicles and congestion to the roads will make parking for the people of Robertsbridge and owners of homes along the high street, unbelievably problematic.

**Safety along the train route**

Level crossing are a hazard to roads and the railway network have been closing and removing these from our roads in the hundreds, why cause unnecessary risk to our quiet village.

Fires along train tracks, how would a fire engine access to fires caused by the trains along the route?

**Flood plan**

Robertsbridge is built on a flood plan, this is a well known fact and the village constantly have Environment Agency working to protect us throughout the winter months and times of heavy rainfall. The RVR will have to build the railway on a new raised mound to protect the railway sleepers from flooding, but the affect of this added structure to the environment will increase the flood risk to our village.

**Compulsory purchase orders –**

Should only be used for essential infrastructure, the construction of a steam/diesel railway for tourists is not essential infrastructure, merely a rich mans hobby, and one that should not be endorsement by government.

The purchase of working farm land is absurd, these farms sell their organic hops, meats and diaries products to local restaurants and businesses as well as businesses further afield, the produce to clean healthy produces unadulterated by pesticides and pollutions due to being produces in a quiet area of outstanding beauty. If the railway were to go ahead the land around the railway will be polluted by diesel engines oil and grease off the trains and maintenance vehicles, concrete used for access roads, the crops and livestock will be affected and the these pollutants will enter

The tactics of the RVR the been nothing short of bullying of these farmers and is extremely unrepachable and intolerable, the village has no need for a hobby train line.

Loss of natural habitat

We chose to live in this beautiful countryside because it is just that, beautiful, a haven for wildlife especially endangered wildlife. The construction of the railway will destroy an area of outstanding nature beauty, annihilating habitats of woodland and pastures the very same woodland and pastures the government have recognised it is essential to protect.

Transport route

It has been reported by the RVR that the reintroduction for the train line will create a vital transport route from London to Tenterden. This is highly inconceivable as the cost alone of travelling by these trains to Tenterden is incredibly expensive and economical unviable for families in the area.

I wish to put forward a question to you;

Who will reimburse us for:

The damage to our properties when flooding occurs more frequently? Our insurance companies wont.

Risks to health due to increased pollutants in the environment and food chain?

Risk to property and cars due to vehicles squeezing up/bullying their way up the single road of the high street?

Regards

Eleanor Harrison

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