

From: Ria Paine [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2018 08:44
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertbridge Junction) Order.
Attachments: Letter to Mr Grayling..pdf

Dear Mr Grayling,

Please find attached my letter to you regarding the extension of the Rother Valley Railway.

Kind Regards,

Ria Paine

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Ria Paine

30th May 2018

Dear Mr Grayling

In this letter I have copied in 2 posts that over the past few weeks I have included on the Facebook page of The great Robertsbridge Train Robbery. They are the thoughts and comments from my children. Children who live locally and are interested by their surroundings and what will impact their future.

Both of my children have consented to me sending this to you as they are very keen to help their community find a sensible resolution to the current situation.

"In our family when our children ask us a question we will always give them a truthful but basic answer, if they ask more we give them more of an in-depth answer.

Today my 9-year-old and his lovely friend happily scampered around the village with these, and the reason why??? He asked what this was all about, so I explained, after I had explained it all to him, it wasn't the A21 crossing that overly bothered him, it wasn't the land possibly being sold unwilling, it wasn't our views.

It was the countryside being taken, and the environment suffering!!!!

My 9-year-old is concerned for the birds, the bees, the butterflies, the natural habitat of all the beautiful wildlife that he likes to take photos of, that he enjoys taking photos of, In the age of children festering in front of computers, TV, and tablets, my son is concerned about the fact that this will disturb the land for nature.

I am proud of my children's views, I'm proud that we have encouraged them to think of reasons beyond ours, and I'm proud that today my son and his lovely friend WANTED to post these, because it's this generation who will make a difference to future generations by standing up and doing what feels right!!!!"

(The views of [REDACTED] – he was posting leaflets of support for "The Great Robertsbridge train Robbery")

"Daily I am reading the opinions of objectors and supporters, on both sides I see some very fair and diplomatic arguments where both sides have seen the others views and have spoken freely and with empathy.

What shocks me is the way that many supporters feel that it is okay to berate the landowners, these supporters feel that it is okay to mock them and their determination to protect what is rightly theirs and has been theirs for many years.

My 11-year-old son in his words "we are learning about consent at school at the moment, we have been told that when someone says NO STOP, that means NO STOP!! It's not okay to carry on because your breaking their consent and then if they keep doing it they are taking your rights away"

And that is exactly the point, your taking someone's rights away, breaking their consent and bullying, if an 11-year-old understands its wrong, then grown up greedy big boys certainly do, isn't that what bullies do in the playground, only this isn't a playground this is playing a cruel game with people's lives.

My argument isn't over whether it will or won't have a positive financial impact on the village, or whether it will or won't be a wonderful trip down the memory lane of a steam train, my complete horror is that it is negating the effect that it has on these families who own this land and who have repeatedly said NO STOP!!!!!!"

[REDACTED]

Whilst my biggest concern is the moral one, the seeking of a CPO to obtain the land that the farmers so desperately want to keep.

My other huge concern is how the crossing will affect us in the village and along the A21.

Recently we have had temporary traffic lights that have held up the A21 for a considerable length of time, we then have impatient drivers tearing through the village to get to their destination quicker which then increases traffic volume in the village and with the driver's impatience they drive recklessly.

I live in [REDACTED] I have children that play out on the estate, however we have noticed when the traffic lights hold up on the A21 they use Heathfield Gardens and Bishops lane as a cut through, this then puts an increased traffic flow through the estate and again the drivers drive fast and without care. So, my concern is how the train going through will impact the increased flow through quieter areas of the village?? With the barriers down, people will try different routes and potentially putting our children at greater risk of careless drivers.

The lack of parking concerns me, we are already struggling with the increased volumes of cars parked and dotted around the village due to the station having limited parking and extortionate charges, so the commuters park anywhere they can.

Potentially we will have a lot more cars parked through visitors parking to catch the train, more traffic going through due to train barriers being down and congestion in a small village.

These are all valid concerns and the opposition to the Railway that many of us feel is justified.

Kind Regards

Ria Paine