

Shenaz Choudhary

065/793

**From:** Nicola Tidmarsh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 May 2018 09:39  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Re: Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order

Dear Mrs Foster

Of course. My details are;  
Mrs Nicola Tidmarsh  
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely  
Nicola Tidmarsh

Sent from my iPhone

> On 31 May 2018, at 09:27, TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT <TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT@dft.gov.uk> wrote:

>

> Dear Madam

>

> Thank you for your e-mail. In order to register your objection formally could you furnish us with a full postal address please?

>

> Kind regards,

>

> Mrs Angela Foster | Transport and Works Act Orders Unit | RSSS |

> Department for Transport

> Tel: +44(0)20 7944 2474 | Email: angela.foster@dft.gsi.gov.uk Zone

> 1/14, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

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> My usual working hours are 7.30-4.00, Tuesday to Thursday.

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Nicola Tidmarsh [mailto:[REDACTED]]

> Sent: 30 May 2018 21:04

> To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT <TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT@dft.gov.uk>

> Subject: Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order

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> <RVR Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order.docx>

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Dear sir

I would like to object to the Rother Valley Railway Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order.

These objections are as follows;

I find it upsetting and immoral that a Compulsory Purchase Order for a group of hobby railway enthusiasts who do not even live here can be permitted across our villages beautiful countryside and local farmers land. How is this even being considered? I have been reading public information that states many times the RVR is a "reinstatement" of a line, when that is clearly not true. The old track has been removed and therefore new track and banks would be required, cutting right across owned farmland. If this were to go ahead the farmers would not have adequate access to their own land. This is completely barmy. I am asking for a Public Enquiry.

Parking in Robertsbridge is already at tipping point with no police presence in our village for some time now, residents and non-residents seem to think they can behave with their cars however they wish. There are regular incidents of scraped cars along Fair Lane, George Hill, Northbridge Street to name a few. I live in [REDACTED] and the access from [REDACTED] is often obstructed by drivers parking on double yellows, in no parking spots and this in turn leads to residents having to park elsewhere. We have off road parking in [REDACTED] but have frequently had delivery drivers turn away as they cannot get access up [REDACTED] due to irresponsible parking. This is just my personal experience and if we consider the other "parking hot spots" as I mentioned above across the village, how would we cope with the influx of extra cars (according to public information) if RVR's proposal were to go ahead and X amount of visitors turn up with their cars in our little village? I have read the spin from RVR that these people will arrive by train. How do they know that? There is only 1 line into Robertsbridge, the London – Hastings line, so if you live elsewhere how will you get here? By car. That is before the new homes are finally built, with a further impact of an increase in cars and a need for parking. Let alone the CO emissions.

Where is the proof of economic benefit to our local area? I see none, just an increase of cars, pollution and danger.

Then there is the idea of a Level Crossing on the A21. Utter lunacy. As residents of Robertsbridge we all know far too well that one incident on the A21 can cause delays and disruption and bring the flow of incredibly busy traffic to a halt or through our little village high street. Why on earth would local council and the department for transport even contemplate such a ridiculous notion? From my own experience, if you get behind the bin lorry on a trip northwards to Tunbridge Wells your 25 minute journey takes 50 minutes. For a journey that is only 18 miles?? When there were recent roadworks on the A21 outside Robertsbridge, the traffic came through the High Street causing absolute gridlock in all directions. Thank goodness it wasn't at school drop off or pick up time, the health and safety issue must be huge. Even local MPs Huw Merriman and Amber Rudd have been quoted referring to the A21 as one of the "most dangerous roads in England". Then there's rush hour(s), bank holidays, school holidays, unplanned and planned roadworks, all would be impacted by further delays if a crossing were to be granted. Are there any other hobby railway crossings permitted across A roads in a busy tourist area? I thought the department for transport were looking to reduce the amount of crossings as they are thought unsafe. Along with the smoke and diesel pollution and from cars on A21, this extra level of pollution in my back garden is not acceptable. My 5 year old child plays happily in this village, we chose to live in a village to be as far away from pollution as possible. Not to have it increase for the younger future generations.

Robertsbridge has a flood plain, luckily with a flood defence, but how would this change once construction for a proposed railway line is granted? Surely in an era of global warming our local and national governments would like to do more to help with the impact of global warming, not encourage it? Plus the destruction of local habitat and wildlife in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one grade below National Park cannot go unnoticed.

Please can you consider these points and support our village and stop this unwanted travesty. As a resident of this village for many years I did not want this railway, didn't ask for it and certainly do not want to have anything to do with it. The above points are my personal opinion but I do believe are shared by many and I trust that the law and decent human nature and moral ethics will prevail and together we can put a stop to this absolutely ridiculous plan.

Thank you for considering my points. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Mrs Nikki Tidmarsh