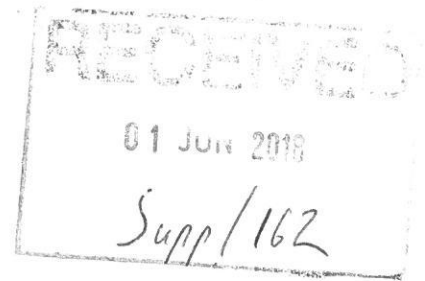


**Mr R. E. Male**



**Dear Sir or Madam:**

**RVR TWA application for Robertsbridge - Bodiam**

**As a member of the "Kent & East Sussex Railway" I have been requested to send representation to yourselves as "The Secretary of State for Transport" in support of the "Rother Valley Railway" application to complete their railway.**

**I enclose a copy of the document that I was sent, as it explains the application and the situation so well.**

**I am really looking forward to this railway reopening between Robertsbridge and Tenterden, and as the document says it will bring real economic benefits to the areas served by this railway.**

**Yours Faithfully**

*29-May-2018*



• LIMITED •

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY

*Patrons: Rt Hon Lord Barker of Battle PC, Chris Green MA FCIT*

**ROBERTSBRIDGE (RVR) JUNCTION STATION, STATION ROAD,  
ROBERTSBRIDGE, EAST SUSSEX. TN32 5DG**

[www.rvr.org.uk](http://www.rvr.org.uk)

My Ref: RVRL736/Chairman

23 April 2018

Dear Friend

### **The Transport and Works Act 1992**

### **Proposed Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order**

Rother Valley Railway Ltd submitted its application on 19 April 2018 to the Secretary of State for Transport for a TWAO. Further details are set out in the attached notice.

#### **Key points in support of the application:**

- Economic benefit to the area, not least to Rother District, East Sussex and Ashford Borough, Kent, estimated at up to £4.1m p.a.
- Benefits achieved without charge on the public purse as the project is being financed by private philanthropists.
- Access by rail from Hastings and London to major tourist attractions in the Rother valley; Bodiam Castle, Great Dixter, Tenterden Town, Sissinghurst and many others
- Employment opportunities for full time, part time and volunteer staff.
- Creation of a protected wild life corridor along the section where the railway embankment was removed.
- RVR has already reconstructed ¾ mile of track at the Bodiam end, ½ mile at the Robertsbridge end and created a terminus station adjacent to Network Rail main line.

#### **Key points in response to the possible concerns:**

- Use of Compulsory Purchase to acquire the historic trackbed from the two farmers who have not yet agreed to sell - It should be noted that following the Public Inquiry into the Rother District Plan, the Planning Inspector recommended the use of CP powers to acquire the land from the then 4 landowners. However, over recent years RVR has acquired two of the parcels by negotiation and made generous offers to the 2 outstanding landowners and expressed a strong wish to acquire the land if at all possible, by negotiation.
- Impact of the A21 Level Crossing - This would not be closed to road traffic during morning and evening rush hours. Full barrier automated locally monitored, closure would be around one minute, as demonstrated by a similar installation elsewhere.
- Flood Risk to Robertsbridge - Extensive modelling validated by Environment Agency shows no increased risk of flooding to the village.
- Ecological translocation of protected and other species - Will be managed by specialists in accordance with plans agreed with EA and Natural England.