

Angela Foster

Supp(171)

From: Neil McGregor
Sent: 30 May 2018 14:01
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to support the application for the grant of the proposed Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order.

My firm is instructed to provide legal support for the re-opening of a railway in Transylvania as a volunteer-led heritage railway project, with support from the UK. That railway is a listed national monument, passes through landscape of particular beauty and includes a number of level crossings, including one on a main road. There is little or no precedent for this in Romania and although I have a good deal of experience of this sector in the UK, I have paid close attention to the published planning applications for the Rother Valley Railway as an example of best practice to be followed. Apart from the benefits to civil society of encouraging volunteering, I have also had regard to the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Heritage Railways on the economic value which heritage railways bring to the areas in the UK in which they are located.

I have been very impressed with the care with which the Rother Valley Railway prepared its application for the grant of planning permission, dealing with the various practical concerns raised about the project. I was not surprised to see that planning permission has been granted for the project. The application for a transport & works order appears to me to have been prepared with no less care and consideration.

The Rother Valley Railway project will provide connectivity between the national network and the existing line between Bodiam and Tenterden. I hope that the Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order will be granted and look forward to being able to travel by train from London to Robertsbridge and on to Bodiam and beyond in the future.

Best faithfully,

Neil McGregor

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