

Angela Foster

Supp(173)

From: Michael Barton
Sent: 30 May 2018 12:17
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: FW: rother valley railway(bodiam to robertsbridge junction) order

From: Michael Barton [mailto:
Sent: 30 May 2018 12:01
To: 'transportand'
Subject: rother valley railway(bodiam to robertsbridge junction) order

Representation by Michael Barton FRSA of

Summary of views – that ,if allowed, the RVR will come under the management of the Kent and East Sussex Railway (KESR) and that the reputation of that organisation for community and ecological friendliness with tourist enhancement based on sound management, is likely to be replicated in the new section between Bodiam and Robertsbridge .

With a background career in business management I have been a volunteer with the KESR for over twenty years ; working as ticket Inspector and station master with direct contact with “very satisfied” customers. As a “member” of KESR I have noted the efficacy of the board of directors, the motivation of both paid and volunteer staff and the opportunities given to young people by training and liaison with schools.

Benefits gained by the town of Tenterden and its borough Ashford, include co-operation on local festivals, having a free station car park which keep cars out of the local authority facilities and adding to the tourist attraction of the area. National figures of the monetary return of heritage railways indicate that for every £1 spent on the railway a similar sum is spent in the town.

The KESR has two nationally recognised attractions, the Colonel Stevens Museum at Tenterden and the Cavell Van at Bodiam. These with the history of hops and the Guinness farms around the latter will now be shared with Robertsbridge and district.

I must add that should anyone, as is sometimes the case, thinks that both volunteer and paid staff are there to “play trains” , the assurance given is that “we” are most committed to good management, good tourism, sustenance of the community and upholding the obligations of our charitable status.

Thank you.

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