

SUPP/172

Angela Foster

From: Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green
Sent: 30 May 2018 13:28
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order
Attachments: RVR.docx; ATT00001..htm

Please find attached a letter in support of the above.

Regards

Eleanor

Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green
Darwell Ward
Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Communications

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30th May 2018

Re: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order)

Dear Sir

I write to you as a Rother District Councillor in support of the above application to reinstate the railway between Bodiam and Robertsbridge.

Whilst I now live a few miles away I was brought up in Robertsbridge and my parents still live in the village.

I am concerned that a small minority of people living in Robertsbridge and Salehurst are mounting a very noisy campaign against the application based on misinformation.

There are many reasons I support this application. Firstly this is the reinstatement of a railway and not a new railway. The farmers who own the land had a railway running through it up until the 1960s.

There is a pedestrian crossing just north of the roundabout at the north end of the Robertsbridge by-pass which can be activated 24 hours a day and this causes no delays to traffic.

My colleague Cllr Sally-Ann Hart has written to you stating that it will not increase tourism in Rother. This is clearly utter nonsense as the presence of any preservation railway will draw in visitors and therefore increase tourism.

Her comments are completely at odds with the Officer Report presented to the Rother District Council planning committee on 17th March 2016.

This includes saved policy EM8 from The Rother District Local Plan 2006

Policy EM8

An extension to the Kent and East Sussex Steam Railway from Bodiam to Robertsbridge, along the route identified on the Proposals Map, will be supported, subject to a proposal meeting the following criteria:

- (i) It must not compromise the integrity of the floodplain and the flood protection measures at Robertsbridge;*
- (ii) It has an acceptable impact on the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;*

- (iii) *It incorporates appropriate arrangements for crossing the A21, B2244 at Udiam, Northbridge Street and the River Rother.*

This report also covers ecology and flooding concerns now raised by objectors.

The extension of the railway will create many opportunities for the village and villagers of Robertsbridge and unfortunately the vociferous minority campaigning against are NIMBY's who are acting in their own interests and not in the interests of the village.

Yours faithfully,

Eleanor Kirby-Green