

From: Myles Chantler
Sent: 30 May 2018 15:57
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT; Myles Chantler
Subject: Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

Dear Mr C Grayling, MP, Secretary of State for Transport

My name is Myles Chantler and my address is

I understand that you are accepting comments regarding the above order and I would like to pass mine on to you and your team.

I am writing to you to SUPPORT the rail connection from Robertsbridge to Bodiam for the following reasons (and in no particular order)

- a. The majority of the old railway line is still in existence and the proposal is to reinstate not build a new railway over a short section of the former railway (about 2.5 miles)
- b. I understand the RVR has made repeated attempts and has had lengthy discussions with all landowners who own parts of the former track bed to purchase these. Indeed they have already purchased and constructed 3/4 mile of track from Bodiam Station towards Robertsbridge. They have recently acquired another section of the line towards Robertsbridge and these leaves two sections left now to purchase
- c. The RVR will be able to run the majority of the materials needed for the railways reconstruction from their two railheads (Robertsbridge and Bodiam) thus reducing their reliance on construction traffic on the local road system
- d. The historic link between Tenterden and the main line at Robertsbridge would again be reinstated
- e. The railway link from the main line at Robertsbridge to both Bodiam, famous for its castle, and Tenterden, the headquarters of the KESR, will permit visitors to go by train rather than by car. This being environmentally preferable and take the pressure of the local roads
- f. The original line was closed to regular traffic in the early 1960's so there will be NO "ancient" woodland, buildings etc. that would be affected. Occasional trains ran until 1970 and the rails weren't lifted until the mid 1970s so the railway was still a part of the local area in the recent past
- g. One of the farmers involved, is stated to be against the reconstruction because of the supposed damage to the environment when he is currently trying to gain planning permission for houses on the Pevensey Levels which are nearby and is an area of SSSI. This shows his concern about the environment is hollow.
- h. Both Kent and East Sussex County Councils, all local Borough councils are in favour
- i. The Office of Rail Regulation and the Highways Authority are happy for level crossings to be reinstated
- j. The other farmer is stating how it will affect his business yet his family farmed around the line when it was open. Today's farming is pushed towards environmental farming and schemes and any small areas of land they say will be created can be put down to environmental schemes where he will be paid to provide an environmental rich habitat
- k. Look at the wildlife that happily lives alongside the current railway between Tenterden and Bodiam
- l. The A21 level crossing will slow traffic down on the southern approach to the roundabout making the road safer
- m. The North side of the roundabout has a pedestrian crossing which can be used at all times of the day (especially during peak hours) and this would cause more impact to traffic flows than a reinstated crossing
- n. The limited use of the railway (most weekends and daily in the summer) means the level crossing will be used very infrequently and will be less of a hindrance to A21 traffic flows than the previously mentioned pedestrian crossing
- o. The EA have agreed and accepted the flood risk programmes that the RVR tested and feel there is no increase in flood risks due to the railway being reinstated