

[REDACTED]

From: Richard Broyd
Sent: 21 June 2021 14:19
To: [david.gillett@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:david.gillett@[REDACTED])
Cc: Jane Wakeham
Subject: Fwd: Rother Valley Railway reconstruction

This message originated outside Winckworth Sherwood

For the attention of David Gillett, Project Manager

Dear David

Funding Rother Valley Railway (RVR) reconstruction.

I am a trustee of the Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust and have been asked to provide information in support of RVR's case on funding of the proposed Order scheme. I intend to write in similar terms to the Secretary of State for Transport ahead of the Inquiry next month.

Since 2011, I have donated an equal share with another donor of £4.1 million towards the reconstruction of the Rother Valley Railway as it extends from Bodiam station to Robertsbridge station and associated costs. This represents a long-term commitment, the final phase of which will be completion of the "Missing Link" from Junction Road to Northbridge Street in Robertsbridge.

Further funding from the existing donors will be made available as necessary to complete the scheme, together with funding from other sources such as, for example, a recent and very generous legacy of approximately £1million. Once the Order is made, I fully expect my own philanthropy to be endorsed and expanded on by others and will be involved in co-ordinating an appeal for funds to enable the participation of Interested individuals and communities, including the membership and supporters of the Kent and East Sussex Railway, of which the Rother Valley Railway is the western extension.

This involvement represents for me the second occasion when I have enabled the reconstruction of a closed railway line. The first, during the 15 years up to 2011, was the rebuilding of the 25 mile line from Caernarfon to Porthmadog in North Wales (known as the Welsh Highland Railway) to which I donated a third of the construction costs of £30 million. After the completion of that railway, and to enable associated restorations, I chaired a successful appeal to raise £1 million per annum for five years.

I should add that the other established donor to the reconstruction of RVR is an individual of very substantial wealth who wishes to preserve his anonymity in respect of his charitable donations to this project. Whilst I would have preferred to retain my anonymity, I understand that the ability of the promoter to fund the Order scheme is a concern which continues to be pursued and I hope that, by coming forward, such concerns may be allayed.

I regard myself as a heritage philanthropist of the built environment including, especially, country houses, gardens, landscapes as well of the industrial revolution. I have been told that my gift of three country houses that I restored to the National Trust in 2008 represented the largest gift the National Trust has ever received.

I support the preserved railway movement because it is volunteer and donor driven by particularly dedicated individuals and communities, and it gives much pleasure to the travelling public through what have become well established substantial tourist attractions.

I trust that this letter sets out clearly my reasons for supporting the reconstruction of this railway, my contributions and achievements towards achieving that aim to date, and my commitment to continuing to the completion of the project.

Yours sincerely
Richard Broyd OBE