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The Secretary of State for Transport
TWAO Unit
General Counsel's Office
Department for Transport
Zone 1/18
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

16 May 2018

Dear Secretary of State

Proposed Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Transport and Works Act Order

The Parish Council wishes to express its concerns regarding the TWAO application for the Rother Valley Railway. Since submission of the TWAO application by Rother Valley Railway, opposition to the extension of the line has become more evident within the parish. Faced with an indeterminate divide in local opinion, the Parish Council recognises that more independent and expert adjudication is required.

The Parish Council is deeply uncomfortable with the prospect of an exercise of powers of compulsory purchase of land and, whilst appreciating that the legislation may make such provision, this is very divisive within the village. This should be avoided if at all possible.

There are three major issues, flooding, environmental and three road crossings which were discussed at the planning stage with Rother District Council, where the Parish Council still has concerns, and would like to ensure that the Secretary of State is satisfied with the level of investigation and accuracy of the reports provided, to be able to provide an unbiased view of these contentious aspects.

There is also concern that no additional parking has been provided for the substantial expected visitor numbers. Robertsbridge already suffers parking problems with National

Rail commuters using uncontrolled street parking and there is a concern that this will exacerbate the problem.

The Parish Council would like to see a public enquiry held, so that both sides can be heard, and all the issues fully explored.

With regard to specific notices served on the Parish Council, in relation to our interest in areas numbered on the plan as follows, the Parish Council has no objection:

Notice No: P-08

Area no. 2, air space under Bridge No. 2 in Railway No. 2 west of the Clappers (Parish Council has right of vehicular access) – temporary use, survey and investigate, temporary stopping up.

Notice No: S-11

Area no. 8, 174 square metres south bank of River Rother (land owned by Parish Council, used as Pocket Park) – investigations and surveys.

The Parish Council also has an interest in the following areas numbered in the plan, but has no objection to surveys and investigations:

Area no. 9, 374 square metres south bank of River Rother (PC is tenant, land used as part of Pocket Park)

Area no. 12, 84 square metres south of railway, west of The Clappers – pond area – **the Parish Council owns this land** (not owned by the Cricket Club, as stated in the book of reference).

Yours sincerely



Karen Ripley (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council