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**Environment
Agency**

Steve Humprey
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Kings Hill
West Malling
ME18 4LZ

Our ref: AP/SB

Your ref:
Date: 3 April 2012

Planning & Transportation Services Tonbridge & Malling BC		
- 4 APR 2012		

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March. We understand the disappointment that the Little Mill and Aylesford flood alleviation schemes have not received funding support.

We recognise the severity and frequency of flooding which these communities suffer, and we will continue to work to reduce flood risk in these areas by providing them with all the support we can.

Unfortunately, funding for flood defence is limited and in some instances it may be in the interests of communities to accept a scheme which provides a lower standard of protection than hold out for a scheme which may never be funded. We understand this is difficult news for the communities to accept and we will continue to provide them with the information they require to make an informed decision.

I hope that, as we develop our understanding of the new funding system, we may find ways to promote the schemes or their alternatives. If any new development is planned in these areas we would encourage you to seek contributions to the costs of any scheme on our behalf as a reduction in flood risk in one part of the community has a wider benefit for the whole.

I share your disappointment in the set back to funding; the work that has been done by the partnerships has already reduced flood risk in both villages. I am hopeful that by continuing to work together, the work done to date will not be in vain. If you would like to discuss this matter further I would be more than happy to answer your questions. Please contact me on 01732 223210.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW PEARCE
Area Manager – Kent and South London

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