

Mr Andrew Pearce
Area Manager
Environment Agency
Orchard House
Endeavour Park
London Road
Addington
West Malling ME19 5SH

Contact	Steve Humphrey
Direct line	01732 876256
Email	Steve.Humphrey@tmbc.gov.uk
Fax	01732 876317
Your ref	
Our ref	PTLS/SH
Date	21 March 2012

Dear Andrew

FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEMES – LITTLE MILL AND AYLESFORD

At a recent meeting of the Council's Planning & Transportation Advisory Board, I took the opportunity to report to members about the effect of the new funding regime on the proposed scheme for the Little Mill area, near East Peckham.

You will not be surprised to hear that members of the Board expressed extreme disappointment at the delay in progressing this flood alleviation scheme, particularly as alternative sources of local funding were highly unlikely to become available. Members found it particularly frustrating that the local residents were now effectively being asked to contribute to the funding of a scheme and were being given a limited range of alternative options. Consequently the Borough Council would urge the Agency to keep this scheme as a high priority should further funding become available.

In making these representations members were very concerned about the impact of the change in funding approach, recognising that other worthy schemes would be affected. In particular in Aylesford there has been a long standing effort by an established partnership to bring forward a much needed scheme to deal with the problems of flooding in the centre of the village. Here again the prospect of additional local funding seems remote.

I appreciate that the prospects of reversing this approach to scheme funding is unlikely at this stage. Equally you will understand the frustrations of local communities and the Borough Council itself who have long standing expectations that schemes will be delivered following years of collaborative work. I know that you and your colleagues will technically and professionally appreciate the need for these projects to proceed and I can assure you of a high level of commitment by the members and officers of the Borough Council to achieve this end. Sadly though the prospects of raising local

funding is likely to be practically very challenging. Nevertheless, I do hope that you will strive to keep these two schemes that I have mentioned very closely in mind should further potential resources become available.

Yours sincerely

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure

C c MOB
Cllrs Heslop, Worrall and Rogers
Sir John
Tracey Crouch

COPY