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Environment
Agency

Nicolas Heslop and Julie Beilby
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Kent
ME19 4LZ

Our ref: LB/AP/SH

Your ref:

Date: 15 May 2014

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ACKNOWLEDGED	YES/NO

Dear Nicolas and Julie

Future Flood Defence Works – Tonbridge and Malling, Kent

Thank you for your letter of 17 April. Our Chairman, Lord Chris Smith, replied to the same letter on 30 April, and I enclose a copy of Chris' response. We now have further updates on the funding situation that was mentioned in his letter, which I am happy to confirm for you.

As you are aware, the Regional Flood and Coastal Risk Management Committee have allocated funding for this financial year to the following capital projects, which are designed to reduce the risk of flooding in Tonbridge and Hildenborough:

- £80,000 to reinstate high ground in the Danvers Road/Avebury Avenue area.
- £200,000 to investigate and construct a bund to reduce flood risk in Hildenborough.
- £100,000 to progress investigations into potential improvements to the Leigh Flood Storage Area (FSA), which were previously programmed for 2035. Kent County Council (KCC) contributed a further £50,000 towards these investigations.

In March we submitted funding bids for our six-year Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) Capital Programme, which included the Leigh FSA improvements. Without significant third party contributions this scheme would not attract FDGiA, however, we are confident that the proposed contribution from KCC will help secure the funding required. The bids for FDGiA are currently being assessed against other projects nationally and we will find out whether we have been successful in October. If successful we plan to start the detailed design next year, with construction likely to be completed in 2018.

We were in the process of updating our modelling for the River Medway through East Peckham before the Christmas floods and expect to complete this work by November this year. This will inform the design for improved flood defences for the village. We have secured £50,000 of FDGiA funding for 2014-2015 to design and plan the scheme

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with a further £400,000 for 2015-2016 for construction. This will begin soon after the remodelling is finished and we plan to complete the works by the end of 2016.

I hope this information is useful.

I am sure Andrew Pearce will keep you up to date as the schemes progress. Andrew can be contacted on 01732 223210 or at andrew.pearce@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Or if you would like to discuss this further please contact me on 01590 673172 or at lorraine-brown@live.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Brown

Chair of the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SRFCC)