



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

6 August 2020

Sir James Bevan
Chief Executive
Environment Agency
C/O Orchard House
Endeavour Park
London Road
Addington
West Malling
Kent
ME19 5SH

Our Ref: TT38295

Dear Sir James,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter that I have been copied into from Mr Kevin Storey of Bridge House, Rogues Hill, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 8BQ, and was sent to Tim Connell at the Environment Agency on 31 July 2020, in relation to the application for the enlargement of the Leigh Flood Storage Area and amendment to the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976

As you can see, Mr Storey is deeply disappointed that the Environment Agency has sought to re-write the submission from Penshurst residents to the consultation regarding the amendment to the act that has been submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). My office has been in touch with Mr Storey and he is concerned about the reluctance of the Environment Agency to agree to three asks of residents in Penshurst which would address their situation while also allowing the much needed expansion to go ahead, considering the substantial benefit for communities downstream. These asks are that a measuring station be installed at Penshurst to provide evidence of timing and levels so that actual flood levels after the confluence of the River Medway and River Eden would be known, that the Environment Agency pay the cost of making Mr Storey's neighbours studio resilient to flood, and that agreement is reached towards the implementation of already given planning permission at Bridge House to defend it from flood water.

I would be grateful if you could let me know whether the Environment Agency could look at these three issues as part of this process, in order to ensure that residents in Penshurst also benefit from the scheme. I know that Mr Storey and his neighbours would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this too.

I look forward to hearing back from you. I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Floods Casework Team at DEFRA and the Area Director of the Environment Agency

Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SP

01732 441 563 - tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk - www.tomtugendhat.org.uk

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom Tugendhat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TOM TUGENDHAT

CC:

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Floods Casework Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Sally Harvey, Area Director for Kent and South London, Environment Agency