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From:

Date: Tue, 6 Apr 2021 at 18:52

Subject: Leigh barrier extension

To: <floodscasework@defra.co.uk>

We support the Leigh barrier extension provided the scheme and operating procedures are amended to include a duty of care towards downstream communities

Stephen Day

Chairman

Medway Beult & Teise Flood Group

Public Enquiry

Leigh FSA Extension

Submission by Edward Raikes, Parsonage Oasts, Yalding ME18 6HG
(On the bank of the river Medway, just upstream from the Boat House PH)

Former Secretary of the Medway, Teise and Beult Flood Group

I, and the members of our group, are generally in favour of increasing the impounding capacity of the Leigh FSA, but we think it should be conditional on the operating instructions for the FSA being written to take the interests of the downstream communities, eg East Peckham, Yalding, Maidstone, etc, into account as well as the interests of Tonbridge and Hildenborough.

For instance three rivers join at Yalding: the Medway, Teise and Beult. To the extent that the flow down the Medway can be controlled by the operation of the Leigh FSA, it should be controlled, other things being equal, so that the peak flow down the Medway does not coincide with peaks on the other two rivers.

It is also the case that the peak flow through Yalding, and therefore the peak flood, tends to occur as the Leigh FSA, after being filled up, is subsequently discharged. There is an opportunity here for reducing the downstream flood by delaying or reducing the discharge.

There will be other occasions where close scrutiny will reveal ways of operating the LSA so that risks are equalised along the river.

Given that the Act of Parliament under which the LSA was originally constructed expressly mentioned the downstream communities, I think it is incumbent on any extension to the LSA to observe similar obligations. The Enquiry may think that this point is so obvious that it hardly needs to be made, however I am saying it here because it appears to us that the Environment Agency seems to think that it needs no longer concern itself with what happens beyond Tonbridge and Hildenborough.

Edward Raikes, 6th April 2021