

DAME HARRIETT BALDWIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lisa Stevens
Severn Stoke & Croome D'Abitot Parish Council
9 The Limes
Kempsey
WR5 3LG

January 27, 2025

Dear Lisa

As you and the parish council will know, I have long campaigned for the permanent flood defence scheme in Severn Stoke and have held regular meetings with local stakeholders and partners to try and find ways to unblock this important scheme. You may know that, following the news, last year, that the Environment Agency had failed to find a contractor to carry out the work, I asked Worcestershire County Council to use its own framework contractor, Griffiths, to carry out the work building the bund, as well as carrying out the pre-agreed road-raising project.

I have held meetings with the chief executive of the Environment Agency in February, September and last week to discuss the Severn Stoke project and he has assured me throughout that there is both their commitment and budget to enable this scheme to move forward.

I have written to the Leader of Worcestershire County Council to increase his oversight on this project to speed up its planning and delivery, and have raised my concerns, and those of local people, in meetings with the Leader and the chief executive of the council. Provided that the bid comes in under or on budget, I am told by both the council and the Environment Agency that a scheme will commence construction this summer.

Although Parliamentary commitments require me to be in Westminster for the village meeting on Wednesday, I would be grateful if you could ensure that this update is shared with attendees.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Baldwin'.

Dame Harriett Baldwin DBE MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire