

December 23, 2025

MP Presses Local Solution after Environment Agency Abandons Severn Stoke

WEST WORCESTERSHIRE MP Dame Harriett Baldwin has called for a focus on locally delivered solutions to help get the Severn Stoke flood defences underway after the Environment Agency pulled the plug on its commitment to deliver the long-awaited scheme.

The MP has lobbied for a flood defence programme for more than ten years and has always expressed her preference for the lowest cost solution using local contractors and local materials formally asked Worcestershire County Council to take over the whole scheme accessing funds earmarked by the Agency for Severn Stoke.

Over the last five years, the Environment Agency has pledged that it would build the scheme, but despite soil arriving and newts being moved it never actually appointed a contractor to build the scheme and available funds are starting to run out.

Now a willing contractor has been lined up but the price is a little bit too high, but the MP called on the Environment Agency to seek agreement from the Government to bridge any funding gap and allow the contractor to press on in 2026 to build the bund and the road.

Dame Harriett said: “At the very beginning of this project, we gathered local people in Severn Stoke village hall and committed to delivering a community-led project using local materials and local contractors.

“At some stage, the Environment Agency decided that it should build the scheme itself but after many years of dither and delay, we are no further forward.

“I am delighted that there is now a willing contractor ready to go and I’ve made the case to Floods Minister Emma Hardy that plenty of money has been spent on consultants managing this project but to date there is planning permission but no spades in the ground.

“I have urged the Minister to direct the Environment Agency to support any willing provider to do the work without the gold-plated stipulations that go hand-in-hand with one of their formal schemes.

“It has been great for communities like Upton-upon-Severn but this model does not work for Severn Stoke and I really feel they need to see progress in the Spring.”

ENDS