

**DAME HARRIETT BALDWIN MP**



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

Lisa Stevens  
Parish Clerk  
Severn Stoke and Croome d'Abitot Parish Council  
9 The Limes  
Kempsey  
WR5 3LG

January 26, 2026

Dear Lisa

As you will be aware, I met with local managers from the Environment Agency, before Christmas, who were starting the communications process to inform the community that it would cease work on the proposed permanent flood defence scheme for Severn Stoke. I immediately asked the team to pause this process and I wrote to the Flooding Minister, Emma Hardy MP, to ask her to intervene and issue a Ministerial Directive to fund the project and allow it to now proceed.

I was pleased to receive written confirmation from the Minister that she had done that, and I enclose the letter for your information. Last week, I received a briefing from the Environment Agency to confirm that the scheme is fully funded and it would be able to proceed using a contractor on the Worcestershire supplier framework.

Last Friday, I met with Worcestershire County Council to ask them to confirm that the funding, secured under the previous administration, to support the road raising is still available and that that project is also able to proceed. I am told that this is the case.

Bearing in mind that this project has started a number of times, and has already cost the tax payer nearly £900,000, I believe it is the right decision for the Environment Agency to press on with this project protecting the houses, the church and businesses as well as increasing resilience for the A38.

It has been a challenging effort to keep this project alive and I am thankful to your parishioners who have showed extraordinary patience, I am hopeful that work can get underway shortly and I plan to keep a close eye on this matter, as ever, until permanent flood defences are in place. I would be grateful if you can share this letter with your councillors at the next opportunity.

Yours sincerely

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

**Dame Harriett Baldwin DBE MP**  
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire