



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Owen,

Thank you for your email of 30 July on behalf of your constituent, Charles Green of The Wood, Maesbrook, Oswestry, about my visit to the area in July. I apologise for the delay in responding. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence.

I am sorry we did not have the opportunity to meet when I visited. I understand Mr Green was disappointed he was not able to meet me directly and I understand the Environment Agency's Area Director contacted him directly following the visit.

During my visit to the area I was fortunate to visit six sites. We had to limit the number of stakeholders joining each meeting to enable a full discussion in the limited time available at each location.

As Mr Green recognises, I did meet with a number of community representatives and councillors, which provided me with a useful insight into the difficulties residents are dealing with in the Melverley/Crew Green river confluence area.

Thank you for sharing Mr Green's information pack with me. I have shared this with the Environment Agency, and it will be able to consider the information pack as part of its investigations.

Across the visit I learnt more about the complexities of water management in the Severn catchment and related matters, including land management and development planning. Set against the challenge of climate change, this was a valuable opportunity to see the investment being made by a broad spectrum of partners to address all the interconnected concerns of water resources, water quality and flood risk management.

I wholeheartedly support this partnership approach in the Severn Catchment and look forward to seeing how it progresses.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

REBECCA POW MP