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Andrew Hassard  
Director of Parks and Leisure  
Belfast City Council  
Adelaide Exchange  
24- 26 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8GD

Our Ref: DA2-12-9599

6 February 2013

Dear Andrew

I am writing to confirm our brief discussion regarding flooding at Orchardville and the surrounding area, adjacent to the Woodlands Playing Fields, Finaghy Road North.

A number of organisations have already taken action following the flooding in June last year and while this has undoubtedly improved the situation, a significant level of flood risk remains. Consequently, Rivers Agency are proposing to undertake a study in partnership with NI Water and others, which will identify sources of flooding, what can be done to manage these sources and who is best placed to take action. One source of flooding, identified by residents, is runoff from the Woodlands Playing Fields and I am pleased that the Council has already taken action to improve the drainage of the playing fields to prevent runoff. We would intend to record this positive action and assess the effectiveness of this intervention as part of the study.

There is also the potential to use "green" areas for the storage of flood water in extreme conditions and we would seek the Councils expertise and support in exploring these opportunities to develop sustainable drainage solutions for the benefit of the local community and those downstream who also have suffered flooding.

I am seeking the Councils endorsement and support for this study. This will involve some staff time and a small financial contribution for the engagement of specialist consultants who will take this forward. We would intend to engage a consultant by end March 2013, with a report due by end September 2013.

I look forward to the Councils response but if you need to discuss in the interim please contact me on 02890 253424.

Yours sincerely

**Pat Aldridge**  
Director of Engineering