Foul Drain overview

At a meeting 8th July with Southern Water, they confirmed that they have a schedule of proposed improvements to the network within the village that should reduce the amount of Ground Water entering the system. We have requested a copy of that schedule and some idea of time table for the work. We have also explained to them the local issues arising from the pumping stations being located below ground water level (and sea level) for much of the year leading occasionally to overflowing sewage, but frequently a need for tankers in the road . These issues cause serious nuisance to the residents nearby and the wildlife within an AONB. They have agreed to consider our concerns and some of the detailed information shared with them, and report back.

Rainwater overview

The Itchenor Road affected by flooding outside Little Court and Maple Cottage in 2012 continues to be an issue but is now being addressed though a combination of Riparian owners working on the surrounding ditches and LandBuild working for the PC using operation watershed funds. This work is booked for September.
The owner of Lower Field has done some work to control rainwater at the drive entrance.
Highways have achieved little in responding to this local road flooding.

IDD Abolition

Our letter to The Environment Agency requesting main river status for the Rife has been acknowledged and is under consideration. We continue to chase.
The Spinney Lane residents association are discussing dredging the Rife. CDC have confirmed that this does not require permission and we are giving guidance with Jane Reeve.

The Pond

CDC have confirmed that permission is not needed to dredge the pond, although good practice is required to protect wildlife. We await permission from EA to lower the pond wier level prior before dredging. We have not yet commenced the conservation area approval required for tree management although we have a quote for this. (£725.00+VAT).The Conservanecy have suggested that the PC produce a management plan. In discussion with them and the Wetlends FLOW team there is support for a woodland boardwalk around the Pond Area. Funding will be needed although volunteer help is being offered for some of the work. This could provide a real benefit for a leisure amenity, a wildlife habitat and easier future maintenance.

Flood prevention group

Quotes have now been received for a number of projects around the village. With these, we will be discussing the Riparian owners responsibilities and applying for some Operation Watershed funding.
West Wittering PC have approved the funding to engage Ground Management to continue the mapping exercise across WW. The Stream between Shipton Green and Rookwood is a major issue as it is blocked and raising ground water levels.

Many of the ditches in verges and on the Common are inaccessable and silted up due to overgrown trees and bushes blocking access. This is costly to maintain and volunteers are needed to start a clearing process in the Autumn.

Jim Dunn