Foul Drain overview

Briefing required on recent Southern Water workshop?

Rainwater overview
All of the Watershed work identified for 2016 in West itchenor has been completed but the owners of Stowfell are challenging the need to lower the existing ditch base to suit the levels upstream of them. This will continue to cause the Highway culverts to block (now clean) and prevent the movement of water through the Spinney to the Rife. CDC and WSCC have been advised.
The owners of 3,8 and 9 The Spinney are not keeping the flood zone clear so are restricting the water flow. Mainly garden debris and chippings. This could lead to them being flooded in storm conditions and further blockages at the pond if this does wash through.
Silted up ditches are not generally being cleaned out except by farmers, so are holding water back in private gardens. Strimming vegetation alone will not improve the situation.

IDD Abolition
Our letter to The Environment Agency requesting main river status for the Rife has been acknowledged and is still under consideration.
The owners of Church Farm have cleared out part of the Rife and created a mud bank. By preventing the spread of flood water on their land when the outflow is tidelocked, this could raise levels in other areas and flood homes in the High Risk Zone.

The Pond
First efforts this year at clearing the Woodland have started with volunteers from the village and The FLOW project. More dates are booked. The EA application to lower the water level is likely to be approved shortly and further quotes are being obtained to modify the wier.

Flood prevention group
Details have been forwarded to WSCC for Operation Watershed funding and we are working with them to try to release some money to the PC to continue priority work next season.
West Wittering are now engaged with Ground Management to carry out the same mapping exercise that we have done.
DEFRA have just procuded a new report for Parliament on Future Flood prevention. This is under examination now!

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/115/115.pdf

Jim Dunn