Developments since the November report.

Foul Drain overview

Southern Water have at short notice carried out an exercise re-lining pipes throughout the village with an expectation of limiting the amount of ground water ingress. Although we have asked, there has been no response regarding the other issues of undersized pipes, inadequate falls and collection of sea water into the system.

Rainwater overview
The Winter has now passed with no flood issues and the work carried out last summer seems to be effective. This will all require regular clearing maintenance now to avoid new blockages.
The PC have referred the Stowfell / Gulworthy ditch level problem to WSCC. The water is now being held back at this point and will again silt up the culvert flooding the road if action is not taken.
The ditch outside harbour view was cleared but already blocked with leaves at the south end requiring work from the owners to prevent blockage.
There is a series of ditches between Itchenor Gate and Itchenor Cottage that are completely overgrown and blocked. Farmers and the Riparian owners have largely ignored them as the ground level is high, but being flat, they will flood in a serious storm and houses will be effected. With the Common, this will need to be an increasing focus for clearing works once the pond and Rife are resolved.

The Rife and IDD abolition this month
The Letter to the EA requesting Main River Status has still received no response although it has been discussed many times with different EA reps, WSCC and CDC.
As the Secretary of State's order is already signed the Lead Flood Authority will become WSCC.

The owners of Church Farm have cleared out part of the Rife and created a mud bank around their property. By preventing the spread of flood water on their land in storm conditions when the outflow is tide-locked, this could raise levels in other areas and flood homes in the High Risk Zone. They now continue to dump clay from a pool excavation. The PC have passed this matter to the EA, WSCC and CDC for enforcement. There is no evidence of any action from them.
The Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group have also notified the Police of a wilful destruction of wildlife habitat.
The PC have written to the Secretary of State with concerns as a dam has been constructed and then partly removed by the same owners.

The Pond
The "Flow Friday" team have made a huge difference with the clearing work that they have undertaken around the pond, assisted by Chris Watson's local volunteers. We need to build on this and the proposal is for the last Friday of every month through out the year to be FLOW FRIDAY in Itchenor to encourage more local effort at village maintenance. The lighter work through the spring and summer will help to maintain the Common, Verges and the Pond with heavier work Nov to March. We would like to publicise this widely effective from 31 March.
Licences have been received from the EA for alterations to lower the weir but no funds to proceed.

Operation Watershed Funding
Quotations and information was sent through last November by The DIG as requested and considered by WSCC. Low cost Priorities were identified. They have not processed it.
A revised quotation for dredging the pond is being sought by DIG.
Carol is now chasing WSCC.
We understand that further funds are available next year, but we would like to see some from this year to progress the pond urgently.

Sea Defence

The EA have now published a first draft proposal for protecting the houses below the sea wall when the wall is overtopped at times when groundwater levels are high. The document is incomplete but begins a process for consideration of how those houses (and possibly the road) can best be protected. We are advised that there are no public funds available.
The draft is attached for discussion.

Fly Tipping

Recently dumped black sacks full of garden waste near Shipton Green have brought attention to this. We are also seeing regular dumping of leaves and garden waste in ditches by local residents. Some of these are rented. The way Forward?

Black Bungalow Corner

The ownership of the inner verge here has been challenged and is under consideration by the Land Registry. Our mapping demonstrates that this is a very important strategic area for Surface Water/ Foul Water management in the lowest point of the village. It is also a very significant corner in the highways appraisal for the village. Should the PC not make a claim on this rather than see it fall into private ownership?

Jim Dunn