Environment Working Party report 9 06.05.17

Developments since the March report.

Foul Drain overview
Southern Water - A meeting 29th April with the Network Infrastructure Manager, Andy Adams.
We discussed the difficulties to date in getting any useful information from them of what they are planning and how it effects the community. Even with the recent work lining the drains , almost no notice had been given or any overall plan of how this will resolve the Itchenor residents problems. We again explained our ambitions to have a more coordinated approach to dealing with all drainage issues and that their help was needed. They have now forwarded electronic mapping data that can be overlaid on the Parish mapping. Once completed we plan to meet with them again to discuss the future.

Rainwater overview
After a very dry winter unsurprisingly their have been no flood issues. It is a good time to note that ditches that should be dry in many locations are currently holding water demonstrating that they have not all been reduced to the correct level. This digging out is a responsibility of Riparian owners and best done now in the dry season. Assistance has been requested from WSCC to enforce this. We do not seem to get feedback from them. This is a matter to be raised again at the SWISH meeting 25th May. The next WS Flood Action Group Forum is scheduled for 5th July.

The Rife and sea wall
The lead flood authority is now West Sussex CC. The sea wall remains under the management of the Environment Agency. Both Party's are now working up plans for future flood protection to low lying houses. Proposals will be presented to the Village In October.

The Pond
Licences have been received from the EA for alterations to lower the weir but no funds to proceed. The Flow team are carrying our further wildlife studies here through the nesting season.

Funding
We are clearly not grasping available funds as well as surrounding Parishes and more effort is needed to succeed with this.
I would like to propose that the PC appoints a Treasurer to work specifically on fund raising from residents and collecting grants wherever possible to enable projects to proceed. The DIG has a list of work that can not progress in Itchenor. West Wittering is doing better and work continues there.

Jim Dunn