

Article for Fairlight News for FPT
Pathfinder Project

Hopefully many of you will have already heard of the Pathfinder Project, this is a collaboration between Southern Water and Fairlight Residents to improve sewerage drainage in the area.

Lower Waites Lane, Fairlight Cove, Road Management Association(LWLRMA) have been exerting pressure on Southern Water, along with local groups and individuals for some time to improve the problem of sewerage overflow at times of high rainfall, they have managed to convince Southern Water to use Fairlight as one of its Pathfinder locations to look at how to reduce the problem of Sewerage overflow. The whole village is grateful for the effort LWLRMA have put in so far. Southern Water have produced their first document....available from their website. This is a 67 page document, it outlines their initial response. This is to put monitors in the sewerage system to monitor the flow at various points, and to look at ways of reducing the amount of rainfall that enters the sewerage network at times of high flow.

Fairlight presents some challenges to this due to the geology of the area and the previous instability of the cliffs especially in the region of Rockmead Road; because of this soakaways are not recommended in the area and the sewerage system is, and needs to remain, a combined foul and surface water system.

As has been shown in January's floods, it is not just Fairlight, that has a problem . Pett Level also receives a large amount of surface water from the surrounding countryside and the local waste water treatment plant, causing problems, including flooding, and increased water flow in Marsham Brook leading to erosion.

Once there has been time to discuss the initial document with Southern Water, and also there are some results from the investigations by Southern Water into sewerage flows and flows in Highways drains, we should start to have an idea about possible solutions. These need to be carefully looked at to ensure they do not cause any potential problems with the stability of the cliff and its immediate locality.

Thanks go to all those involved in collecting and collating the information on wells, springs and other water related features in the village, the conversation with Southern Water will be on going so if you have any information or comments that could be useful to the discussion pleas let us know and we will ensure it is passed on to the appropriate people.