

Sewerage infrastructure before development - A Campaign led by CPRE Sussex

A questionnaire for Local Councils

Across Sussex, there are far too many cases of new home developments proceeding without adequate sewerage infrastructure, despite protests by local Town and Parish Councils. Well documented problems extend to poor drainage, hydraulically overloaded sewers, sewage flooding of peoples' homes, streets and green spaces, and storm sewage overflows to environmentally sensitive waters.

CPRE Sussex is launching a new campaign to tackle this unacceptable situation. We want to see councils in our area make adequate sewerage infrastructure a prerequisite to development; no sewer upgrade, no permission to develop or occupy new homes.

You can [download two Information Notes from our website](#). The note on "Problems with sewerage in Sussex" provides an overview of the shocking state of our sewerage systems and argues that new houses should not be built until the deficiencies have been rectified, as already suggested by many Parish Councillors, District Councillors and Members of Parliament. The second note explains how pre-commencement ("Grampian") conditions can be used to ensure that the required sewerage infrastructure is put in place before development is allowed to proceed.

To help us to continue to build our Evidence Base, your views would be very much appreciated. Please take a minute to answer our questions below. The results from local councils will help to build the case for using pre-commencement (Grampian) conditions in the planning process and will be of particular interest to Local Planning Authorities.

1. Do you suffer sewage flooding in your area?

Yes

No

Don't know

2. Approximately how often does sewage flooding happen?

Weekly

Monthly

Every six months

Annually

Less frequently

3. Is the sewage flooding extensive?

Widespread across the parish

In isolated parts of the parish

4. Does the sewage flooding impact any of the following? (select all that apply)

Homes

Roads

Footpaths

Green Spaces

Public buildings

Ditches, rivers and /or rifes (short streams)

Other (please specify):

5. Does sewage flooding occur only when it rains?

Yes

No

Don't know

6. Does groundwater infiltrate the sewers in your parish? (Groundwater is water that naturally occurs or builds up below the ground)

Yes

No

Don't know

7. Does surface water make the problem worse? (Surface water flooding that occurs after heavy rainfall)

Yes

No

Don't know

8. Are the sewers in your area hydraulically overloaded? (This is where the capacity of the sewer is not big enough to deal with the waste water flowing through it)

Yes

No

Don't know

9. Is the water company taking action to prevent sewage flooding?

No

Don't know

Yes - please explain briefly:

10. When sewage flooding happens, does the water company help to clear it up?

Yes

No

Sometimes

Don't know

11. Does sewage flooding cause water pollution in your area?

No

Don't know

Yes (please explain):

12. Is your parish under development pressure to build new homes / other built developments?

Yes

No

Don't know

13. If new homes or other development happened, do you think the sewerage system would cope with the additional sewage?

Yes

No

Don't know

14. Have any planning appeals in your parish been upheld regardless of your sewerage concerns?

Yes

No

Don't know

15. Could the use of pre-commencement (“Grampian”) conditions strengthen planning in your area? (see the Information Note on the [Sussex CPRE website](#) for more information about such conditions)

Yes

No

Don't know

16. Do you monitor sewage flooding in your parish? (select all that apply)

We have a Flood Watch Group

We keep a record of incidents

No

Don't know

Other (please explain):

17. Please tick if you would you like further information:

Id' like to be kept informed about this campaign

I'd like be added to the general CPRE Sussex email list to hear about all our work to protect the countryside

18. If you have ticked yes above, please provide your contact details below. (All contact details will be used solely for the purposes of the campaign / to keep you informed about CPRE activities and you can contact CPRE Sussex at any time to be removed from the mailing list)

Name

Parish

Email Address