

## Final results from CPRE Sussex sewerage survey

Position at 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024

67 responses (27%)

No.	Question	Results	Comments
1	Do you suffer sewage flooding in your area?	Yes 78% No 18%	The high extent of problems suffered is consistent with Southern Water's risk and vulnerability assessments.
2	How often does sewage flooding happen?	Weekly 7% Monthly 27% Every 6 months 30%	Taken together, the weekly and monthly sewage flooding exceeds DEFRA's limit of an average 10 rainfall events per year by 2050.
3	Is sewage flooding extensive?	Widespread 15% Isolated parts 85%	These results confirm the need for DEFRA and the Department of Health to review diffuse sewage flooding and provide guidance for public health protection to local authorities.
4	Where has sewage flooding impacted?	Homes 56% Roads 62% Footpaths 47% Green spaces 45% Ditches, rivers and rife 73%	These results indicate the need for the Environment Agency to review the environmental significance of diffuse sewage flooding, provide guidance to local authorities and prosecute regular offences.
5	Does sewage flooding occur only when it rains?	Yes 45% No 40%	This implies the need for rainwater drainage to be maintained in an effective condition in many cases and improved where necessary.
6	Does groundwater infiltrate the sewers in your area?	Yes 65% No 6% Don't know 29%	Infiltration is a major contributor to storm sewage overflows. To reduce infiltration will require extensive relining of sewers.
7	Does surface water make the problem worse?	Yes 73% No 5% Don't know 23%	Inundation is a major contributor to storm sewage overflows. To reduce inundation will require extensive application of sustainable urban drainage (SuDs) techniques, including the construction of swales, tree planting and installing numerous water butts.
8	Are the sewers in your area hydraulically overloaded?	Yes 63% No 10% Don't know 27%	The high extent of problems suffered is consistent with Southern Water's risk and vulnerability assessments. The poor condition of many sewerage networks will require considerable attention and the deficiencies must be rectified before further new home developments can be permitted.
9	Is the water company taking action to prevent sewage flooding?	No 41% Don't know 27% Yes 32%	Clearly, the water company needs to do more. Presently, Southern Water is extensively using tankers to alleviate regular problems, but this is not an acceptable long-term solution.

10	When sewage flooding occurs, does the water company help to clear it up?	Yes 25% No 15% Sometimes 37% Don't know 23%	It appears that the water company needs to do more.
11	Does sewage flooding cause water pollution in your area?	Yes 50% No 13% Don't know 37%	These results indicate the need for the Environment Agency to review the environmental significance of diffuse sewage flooding, provide guidance to local authorities and prosecute regular offences.
12	Is your parish under development pressure to build new homes?	Yes 69% No 28%	These results demonstrate the extent of the pressure to build new homes in Sussex, much of which is speculative due to weaknesses in the planning system.
13	If new homes are built will the sewerage system cope with the additional sewage?	No 86% Yes 2% Don't know 13%	One of CPRE Sussex's demands is that the Government sets up a cross-party committee to examine the conflict between widespread deficiencies in sewerage infrastructure and house building policies.
14	Have any planning appeals been upheld regardless of your sewerage concerns?	Yes 37% No 37% Don't know 27%	There presently is a significant gulf between the environmental concerns of local communities and the decisions of planning inspectors. The frequent disregard of paragraph 11D in the National Planning Policy Framework, whereby adverse environmental impact should provide a basis for rejecting a planning application, is a matter of grave concern.
15	Could the use of pre-commencement (Grampian) conditions strengthen planning in your area?	Yes 57% No 3% Don't know 39%	One of the main aims of CPRE Sussex's campaign is to promote the use of Grampian conditions such that sewerage deficiencies would be required before development was allowed to commence. Whereas the majority of local councils supported the approach, further explanation and guidance appears needed.
16	Do you monitor sewage flooding in your area?	We have a flood watch group 11% We keep a record of incidents 26% No 46%	There appears to be scope for local councils to set up a flood watch team in their area.
17	Do you wish to be kept informed of the CPRE Sussex campaign?	Yes 93%	This is a strong indicator of the interest in sewerage and development – clearly a major issue.