

# Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Subcommittee update

**The River Erme estuary pollution.** The meeting with Sir Gary Streeter MP and a presentation by Rhidian Howells & Hazel Tranchant from SWW went ahead on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The Environment Agency did not send a representative.

Key points from the meeting:

- The Holbeton sewage works is fully functioning and not, as rumour had it, just acting as a storage facility.
- It normally operates well within the legal parameters set out by the Environment Agency, with discharges when there is heavy rain.
- It is not being emptied every day by tanker, but tankers take the settlement sludge to the plant at Marsh Mills for further processing as is usual.
- The main reason for these storm discharges is the lack of separation of surface rainwater from sewage (as elsewhere).
- A large surface water drain installed some years ago only reaches up near the school so is unavailable for many homes in the village. A recently installed storage tank for sewage has failed to stop the discharges.\*
- Sir Gary Streeter Gary Streeter will be convening a meeting with the CEO of SWW and the local Head of the Environment Agency to discuss their overall approach to the problem.
- He will report back to the parish council.
- It is hoped that the next meeting in a few months also includes the Environment Agency.
- Meantime SWW is doing further tests to try and better identify the other sources of bacterial pollution of the Erme estuary.
- Rhidian demonstrated the lack of friability of wet wipes, along with other similar items capable of interfering with the functioning of sewerage system valves.

\*The parish council supports the proposal to extend the surface water drain up Church Hill to link up with the overflow from the new housing development and thereby starting to separate surface water from the sewerage system.

**The parish-wide LED and electricity supplier questionnaire** has been distributed through the parish. Many thanks to everyone who took part. Hopefully next month will bring its findings.



**The book of the month is A Sting In The Tale, by Dave**

**Goulson**, Professor of Biological Studies, Sussex University, and founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. He began studying bumblebees ‘not because they are important pollinators but because they are fascinating, because they behave in interesting and mysterious ways, and because they are rather loveable.’

**The environmental tip of the month** is about Palm Oil, written by Chris Bray.

**New planning application documents.**

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