

Property owners: help prevent flooding

Did you know that if you own land or property with a watercourse running through, next to or underneath it, then it is your responsibility to keep that watercourse clear?

You're called a riparian owner, and by maintaining the watercourse you are helping to prevent flooding in your local area.

A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows such as a ditch, river, rife, or stream. A watercourse could also be partly or completely inside in a pipe or culvert.

You must ensure that water can flow freely through your land and that there are no obstructions that may increase the risk of flooding. Your responsibilities include clearing any debris, managing vegetation and ensuring the flow of water is not obstructed.

A well maintained watercourse can play a significant role in preventing local flooding. It helps to keep land well drained, controls surface water and allows water to escape more efficiently - all the reasons that the watercourse is there in the first place.

You may not also know that for that very reason, certain types of work within or next to a watercourse may require consent.

More information



What so your m

Now is your chance to influence the Council budget for 2015. It's important to you and what matters to you, your community, but to do that you think. That's why we need your minutes to complete our government services to residents across West Sussex. It provides education, c