Parish Guidelines for Planning Applications.

Impact of Roof Drainage Connections to the Foul Sewer

The purpose of this document is to explain why there are so many foul sewage spills into the water courses and put into context the impact of roof and surface water connections to the foul sewer.

In exceptional circumstances, i.e, extreme rainfall events, water companies are allowed to bypass the Sewage Treatment Works (STW) or overflow from the sewerage system and spill/discharge untreated sewage into the watercourse. This is because the alternative would be to restrict the flow or allow natural throttling. The result would be uncontrolled foul sewage flooding, possibly also inside some low-lying properties. It is well known that spills occur at very regular intervals and not just at exceptional circumstances. The major contributing factor causing this is the number of properties that discharge their roof drainage into the foul sewer.

Consequence of more development:

Any new development, including a single property will increase the biological pollution load and hence increase the pollution load in any spills or overflows. **Consequently, SWWS should object to any new development proposals, unless SWWS can guarantee that with the new development in place, there will be no chance of illegal overflows or spills.** If SWWS cannot give this guarantee, the developer should pay a contribution towards mitigation measures, for example provision of storm tank capacity together with associated running costs.

Many developments are extensions to existing properties. Where the original properties roof drainage connects to the foul sewer it appears that the extension's roof drainage can also be allowed to connect to the foul sewer.

If there is not room for a soakaway there is not room for the extension.