

## Appendix A

A Happy New Year

To ensure you are receiving as much information as possible from the police I have signed all the Councils in the Settle, Bentham & Ingleton up to our North Yorkshire Community Messaging which is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community. You will receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information.

If any Councillors would like to sign up also then please email me their details

Please find your police report for Bentham Town Council meeting 06.01.25

We have had 38 incidents reported between 30.11.24 & 04.01.25

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Safeguarding, criminal damage – vehicle, suspect vehicle – checked in order station Road, Road Related offence – Manner of driving, Crime sexual, Abandon call, lost/found, ASB Personal, Highways – BDV & tree down Low Bentham

6 Reports - Concern for welfare/safety - Joint partnership working

30.11.24 & 24.12.24 & 29.12.24 – RTC – single vehicle

03.12.24 – Crime Violence

04.12.24 - Harassment

04.12.24 - Domestic incident

16.12.24 – Suspect circumstances – unknown person trying door handles – High Bentham

01.01.25 & 02.01.25 – Theft from property – Low Bentham

How to report speeding concerns - Speed Management Protocol

[www.northyorkshire.police.uk/search?q=speeding+concern](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/search?q=speeding+concern)

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[www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk)

Working to keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live, visit & work please visit [www.northyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk).

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101, online or 999 if urgent.

Useful site re Crime and policing in England which allows you to search re incident recorded in your area [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

Contact Information:

1 Ring 999 in an emergency or to report a crime in progress.

2 Ring 101 to report incidents or provide information.

3 Ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 to remain anonymous.

4 E-mail [SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk](mailto:SNACraven@northyorkshire.police.uk)

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace



**Bentham Town Council**

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

I write to provide a further update on the situation at Angus Fire.

Angus continues to follow its scope of work philosophy of 'Containment', 'Characterisation' and 'Corrective Action/Remediation'.

#### **Containment**

As you know, we have established that the 'Western' part of our facility - close to the lagoons and redundant foam plant - has some PFAS contamination.

Our objective is to ensure that this contamination remains on site, which is why we continue to capture surface water run-off from those areas and store it in intermediate bulk containers (IBCs). We are now storing over 2.9 million litres of storm water, in addition to sending another ~200,000 litres away for high temperature incineration.

We intend to continue capturing this stormwater until we have our new stormwater treatment facility in place. This is scheduled to become operational by the middle of February. At that point we will start to process and clean the captured stormwater, alongside new rainfall and stormwater. This processing is expected to take many months; exactly how long depends on the amount of regular rainfall that will be added to the already-captured volumes.

As part of our PFAS sampling and testing programme on site, we have identified contamination in drainage and have undertaken remedial work to re-route drainage flows into IBC containers, which will be held ready to process via the new stormwater treatment facility.

So our priority is to contain the issue. The Environment Agency agrees that this is the most appropriate action for us to take in the immediate term.

#### **Characterisation**

This information from the site and surrounding area is required by Angus and the regulator (Environment Agency), and is being obtained by independent and industry leading environmental consultants. It will provide the depth and breadth of analysis required to better understand what contamination there is and where it is located; and then to determine what Corrective action/Remediation is required.

This work will take several years to complete. As new data potentially changes our understanding of the situation, it will be important to ensure that the decisions we make and the actions we take also adapt appropriately. If things do change, then we will react to those changes in a proactive manner.

The more characterisation that is undertaken, the more we learn. Testing of water flows in the drainage system from the town itself, that travel through the Angus site down to the river Wenning, show that PFAS is already present (i.e. before such waters could have been, based on our current understanding, impacted by historic

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#### **Angus Fire Ltd**

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AF/LH/Bentham/06.13



FM 595473



EMS 576644



operations undertaken by Angus). This is to be expected, as PFAS are ubiquitous. They result from a very wide range of sources and are in many household products and chemicals used on a daily basis.

Initial feedback from independent consultants, after taking samples from the River Wenning, included the following finding *"despite PFAS concentrations in groundwater at Angus Fire, large-scale transport and mass discharge to the River Wenning is not demonstrated in recent river water quality data....."*

This should be seen as very good news, for everyone concerned about the water quality in the River Wenning.

#### **Corrective Action/Remediation**

As communicated last month, the purchase order for the stormwater treatment facility has been placed and we are still expecting delivery in January and for it to be fully functional in February.

We are continuing our discussions with those residents whose properties are close to the lagoons or redundant foam plant, in order to determine responsible ways in which we can resolve the situation. We have not received notice of any legal action.

We will continue to work closely with the regulator, the Environment Agency, and will provide regular updates to the Town Council, as we work our way through these very challenging issues over the months and years ahead.

Yours faithfully.

*Paul Williams*

Managing Director

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PM 595473



EMS 576644



C/O 35 Main Street | High Bentham | North Yorkshire | LA2 7HQ

27th November 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors,

As you are aware, since May 2024 and the revelation of the extent of pollution surrounding Foam Production at Angus Fires Site in Bentham a group of concerned Residents has put together a nonprofit group (Cleaner Bentham Limited) to research and identify issues that may affect the environment and town of Bentham and beyond.

The group has experts in their field helping us to determine the impacts of this pollution. In this group, we have a Pollution Expert (who is currently putting together an impact report), a Chemical Engineer, and a Researcher on our steering committee. I personally have spent over 400 hours learning about the effect of PFAS, the history of possible pollution pathways (from anecdotal evidence). This has led onto wider concerns about the truth being kept from not just our communities in Bentham, but those down the Wenning and Lune, and those farming communities that had purchased "bio solids" (Waste from the sewerage farm in Bentham where I believe PFAS have been identified). The harm this pollution may have caused is unimaginable and, in truth, scary. It seems the council is unaware of the extent of this issue.

1. In a recent press release we have revealed we have instructed international law firm, Mishcon de Reya LLP to represent Cleaner Bentham, and any other residents and businesses who are concerned that they may have suffered loss (either by health or financial impacts), caused by this pollution. The scope of any potential litigation could include those affected by the pollution down the Wenning, Lune and into Morecambe Bay. Of course, residents and businesses are free to choose their own representation, should they wish.  
Our Press releases have been picked up by BBC news, Ends Report and The North Yorkshire Post.  
We believe that Mishcon de Reya has great relevant experience and is perfect for representing communities that are affected by this situation.
2. We have had contact with Robert Bilott who is the US Lawyer who litigated against Dupont in 1999, where the town of Parkersburgh suffered contamination from PFAS Waste. Mr Bilott was very supportive of our action offering help if he could and acknowledged he knew AISG through due to their US Legal issues with 9000 lawsuits.
3. We are now a member of Friends of the Earth and are in contact with The Chem Trust (the latter being a charity that acts against this type of dangerous Chemical use). We are working with them to help make changes to Environment Laws.
4. We have approached Angus Fire to help with the costs of blood testing of our community but so far, they have ignored our requests for financial support.
5. In October we enlisted the support of academic universities including the world's leading Toxicologist to help with blood tests and environmental tests.



Cleaner Bentham Limited  
T/A Cleaner Bentham Group  
A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England and Wales

**CRN: 15881170**

**Not for profit number:**



C/O 35 Main Street | High Bentham | North Yorkshire | LA2 7HQ

6. I have enclosed a copy of our Pollution expert's initial briefing for your attention, when a full copy of his impact report has been reviewed and released, we will pass this on also. We expect the final report to be available in January or February 2025 along with most of our test results.
7. We have briefed the local general practice medical surgery who are on aware and engaged with our mission and are doing research into illnesses in the area. Hopefully they will be able to assist with drawing bloods and taking fluids.

We hope that this letter draws the attention of the council to the severity of this situation and that it recognises that Bentham's reputation could be permanently damaged should we not take quick action. We are open and willing to work with the council to push for full remediation of the PFAS contamination and to investigate the source of such contamination, which likely emanated due to Angus Fire's presence since the 1970s.

This is, unfortunately, a potentially huge environmental issue. The tests currently being carried out are a fantastic first step, but they constitute only a small representative sample and will not test all those in or around Bentham who are potentially affected and would like to be tested. The tests also do not deal with soil contamination in the area, which we believe may be widespread and will of course affect property prices in the area.

We also need further testing to establish how widespread the contamination is, particularly in the Wenning and downstream from Bentham. This is a huge issue for the area and one which, as our local council, we will need your support in resolving.

Please would you meet with us to discuss next steps and how we achieve justice for Bentham?

If you have already taken any action in relation to this issue, please let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

Mat MacEley-Young  
Chair Cleaner Bentham Group



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## Appendix D

Enquiry regarding *"whether the Environment Agency has conducted any reviews into the PFAS chemical issue in and around Bentham since summer 2023"*

Thank you for your enquiry received on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

We respond under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environment Information Regulations 2004. Please find our response below.

*Yes, most of the work we undertake is a review. We think that the Angus Fire Desk Study would be most useful to you. Unfortunately, if this were to be requested, we would be unable to disclose it at this time. This is because it relates to an ongoing investigation and could be used as potential evidence.*

*However, we can confirm that our Area Environment Manager is planning on contacting you early next year to discuss this matter further.*

Please refer to [Open Government Licence](#) which explains the permitted use of this information.

Please get in touch if you have any further queries or contact us within two months if you'd like us to review the information we have sent.