

## **Report on Environmental Stakeholders' Meeting – Skipton**

**Date of Meeting:** [Insert Date]

**Location:** Skipton

### **Attendees:**

- Mayor Gareth Adams, Cllrs Burton and Paige. (Bentham Town Council)
- Paul Williams (Managing Director, Angus Fire)
- Ian Cotton (Communications Officer, Angus Fire)
- Cllr. David Ireton
- John Neville and Lisa Chadwick (Environment Agency)
- Victoria Turner Pete Crass (North Yorkshire Council – Public Health)
- Amanda Creswell (Public Health)
- Sam Barton, (Health Standards Agency, HSA)
- Vicki Flowers (Head of Environmental Protection, NYC)
- Dr. Kevin Carr (Consultant, NYC)

### **Summary:**

Paul Williams of Angus Fire provided an operational update, largely repeating information previously shared with the Council in March. He confirmed that although PFAS chemical levels had not exceeded threshold limits, the discharge in question was not authorised, as the specific chemicals had not been included in the original permit documentation.

Angus Fire has installed a new treatment plant for surface water, costing nearly £2 million. While permitted for installation, the plant is not yet authorised for operation or discharge. Currently, 3.9 million litres of potentially contaminated water remain stored on site. The Environment Agency has not confirmed a timeline for issuing the relevant permit. An interim solution via a Local Enforcement Possession Order may be pursued to allow temporary operation of the plant.

North Yorkshire Council acknowledged limited communication with local authorities to date, explaining that their remit is focused on private water supplies. Two boreholes within five kilometres of the site have been tested and are free from contamination, with ongoing monitoring in place.

### **Public Engagement:**

North Yorkshire Council proposed hosting a public meeting in Bentham to address community concerns. It was agreed in principle to collect questions from residents following the next *Bentham News* (mid-May) and to hold a public meeting in late June or early July. Vicki Flowers (NYC) will coordinate the questions and distribute them to relevant agencies for response at the meeting.

### **Public Health Context:**

Representatives from North Yorkshire Public Health and the Health Standards Agency emphasised that research into the long-term health effects of PFAS exposure is still developing. No current UK health standards exist specific to PFAS exposure. A government-led study is expected next year to explore potential health implications further.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps:**

The meeting was viewed as productive and informative by all three attending representatives from Bentham. Planning will now proceed to organise a public meeting in Bentham in June or July, with further details and public engagement to be announced in due course.