

**Bentham Town Council**

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

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

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for meeting with us on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September on the Angus Fire premises. We were able to talk through the Ramboll test reports and answer any immediate questions that you had.

We also explained that we had already spoken to those directly affected by the Ramboll testing on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. This, we felt, was the right and appropriate thing to do ahead of speaking to the Council and the wider Community.

The Ramboll results are part of an ongoing programme of work to characterise the Angus site and surrounding areas. Alongside that, we have and will continue to address any remedial work required to ensure that any PFAS is contained on site, and then remedied on site, in agreement with the Environment Agency's regulatory requirements.

As explained, this programme of work is going to take several years. Those who have had chance to read the reports will understand just how complex this matter is; Angus needs to work closely with external environmental consultants to better understand what they have found and how we should address it, again in accordance with the Environment Agency.

The next meeting with the Environment Agency is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, for environmental consultants Ramboll to present the results of their findings and to discuss with the Environment Agency any gaps in the sampling data, and where further testing is required. The next phase will include sampling of the River Wenning.

Angus Fire will also discuss with the Environment Agency the activities it has undertaken since the Agency's last visit. We will also speak to the Agency about our plans over the coming months to ensure that PFAS is contained on site - an example being the installation of a wastewater treatment facility, which Angus is planning to have in place before the end of the year.

Angus has also made North Yorkshire Council and Julian Smith MP aware of the current situation.

Since our meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September, we have had several meetings with residents directly affected by the testing, and we will continue to provide regular updates via our microsite [www.derbs.co.uk](http://www.derbs.co.uk) and other channels where necessary.

We are making every effort to share the facts of the situation by openly putting detailed information into the public domain. We want people to have a proper understanding of the relevant facts and their context, because attempts to simplify and sensationalise the issue are surely not helpful - either to those directly or personally affected, or to Bentham's other residents and the town's regular visitors.

We are taking this matter very seriously and are standing behind our commitment to fully understand the extent of this situation and to rectify in agreement with the Environment Agency's requirements.



We will continue to provide regular updates to the Town Council, as we work through these very challenging times. Angus is part of the Bentham community, has been for more than 100 years, and committed to work with the community to overcome this situation.

Yours faithfully

*Paul Williams*

Paul Williams  
Managing Director

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