



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:





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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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