

Bentham Town Council Date: 3rd February 2025

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

I write to provide a further update from Angus Fire. As with all of our previous communications, this will be based solely on facts that the Town Council and local community can rely on.

Angus continues our approach of 'Containment', 'Characterisation' and 'Corrective Action/Remediation'.

Containment

Our objective remains to ensure that this contamination is contained on site and whilst we await the arrival of the new stormwater treatment plant, we continue to capture and store surface water run-off from impacted areas.

We have recently been informed that the stormwater treatment facility has been delayed in transit (due to sea freight issues) and will now arrive in Bentham at the start of March. We will then need a few weeks for installation and testing before the equipment is fully operational.

We estimate that it will take us approximately eight months to process all of the collected stormwater, on top of any regular rainfall that adds to the already captured volumes.

We are on track with our extensive new tank installation on site, both those that will receive the stormwater pre-treatment, together with the ones that will receive water, post-treatment. This second set of tanks are where it will be held whilst samples are taken and sent away to an independent lab for testing. If testing confirms the water is within the limits agreed with the Environment Agency, it will be released. If for any reason it is not, it will go back through the treatment plant for further processing.

Characterisation

As previously advised, we expect site characterisation activities by independent and industry leading environmental consultants to continue for several years. They will undertake the detailed analysis required to better understand what contamination there is and help us to determine what Corrective action/Remediation is required.

We have been asked a few times about the quality of drinking water, which as people will know, is supplied to the town by Yorkshire Water. As a precautionary measure, we had tap water samples taken from across the Angus site and sent them off for independent laboratory analysis. As expected, all results came back within the Drinking Water Inspectorate's (DWI) quality standards, thus confirming what Yorkshire Water had already publicly advised when approached on the issue.

Corrective Action/Remediation

We will continue to work closely with the regulator, the Environment Agency, and keep them informed on progress made in addition to the monthly updates provided to the Town Council, as we address these very challenging issues over the months and years ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those at Angus who come to work each and every day, helping the company navigate these challenging times. Your dedication, along with the support from our local community, means a great deal to us.

Yours faithfully.

Paul Williams

Managing Director