

Date: 3rd March 2025

Bentham Town Council

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

I write to provide a further update from Angus Fire on the work being undertaken to implement our strategy of 'Containment, Characterisation and Corrective Action/Remediation'.

Containment

We continue to make good progress on the installation of a stormwater processing plant. All tanks for holding pre-and-post-processed stormwater are now in place and the connecting pipework should be completed this week. There are nine post processing tanks in total. Their capacity is key in allowing sufficient storage while we ensure independent laboratory test results from every completed batch are thoroughly validated to meet the stringent performance limits agreed with the Environment Agency.

The stormwater treatment process has two main aspects – a primary phase of Surface Activated Foam Fractionation (SAFF), and a secondary phase of filtering, through a large carbon media vessel. After thorough research and trials conducted by Geosyntec, it has been determined that this technical solution is using the 'Best Available Techniques' for the treatment of stormwater that interacts with PFAS contaminated areas.

The SAFF unit arrived in Bentham on the 26th February. The carbon phase is currently undergoing final installation. We anticipate all other works will be completed to enable plant commissioning to start at the beginning of March, with the treatment facility being fully operational within 2-3 weeks. We are in constant dialogue with the equipment manufacturers and our consultants to ensure that the treatment plant delivers optimum performance.

We now estimate that it will take us around nine months to process all the stormwater we have collected, on top of any rainfall that adds to the already captured volumes.

We continue to work closely with the regulatory authorities to ensure they are fully aligned with the approach being taken. This has included meeting with North Yorkshire Council, who have been very supportive of the work we are doing to resolve these issues. We will keep them, in addition to the Town Council, fully updated on the progress made.

Characterisation, Corrective Action/Remediation

Our independent Environmental Consultants continue to undertake both on and offsite characterisation activities and are now working with scientific experts with specialist equipment to assist their understanding of groundwater flows on and off site.

This information will then determine what Corrective Action/Remediation will be required in agreement with the Environment Agency and North Yorkshire Council.

I am encouraged by the amount of support we have received from within the local community. Angus takes this matter extremely seriously and we remain committed to addressing the challenges in front of us.



The company has invested significant financial resources on this issue to date, which includes our largest ever outlay on equipment for the installation of the stormwater treatment facility. There is no quick solution, but we remain committed to working closely with the appropriate regulatory authorities, the local community and the Town Council over the long-term.

Yours faithfully.

Paul Williams
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