



C/O 35 Main Street | High Bentham | North Yorkshire | LA2 7HQ

Thursday 21st November 2024

Dear Mr Smith,

As promised, I am providing an update for you on our group's knowledge of the pollution crisis our town faces.

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.

We believe that Mishcon de Reya has great relevant experience and is perfect for representing communities that are affected by this situation.

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.

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 pollution. We are working with them to help make changes to Environment Laws.

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.

We have enlisted the support of academic universities including the world's leading Toxicologist to help with blood tests and environmental tests.

I have enclosed a copy of our Pollution experts briefing for your attention, when a copy of his report has been reviewed and released, we will pass this on also.

We expect this report to be available in January or February 2025 along with most of our test results. However, these tests are only a small representative sample and will not test all those in or



Cleaner Bentham Limited
T/A Cleaner Bentham Group
A Company Limited by Guarantee
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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 MP, 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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CLEANER BENTHAM

Briefing Note

To : Update List

Subject : PFAS pollution in Bentham

Date : 16th November 2024

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Summary : Use of “forever chemicals” at an industrial facility in the town of Bentham, Lancashire, may have caused pollution of the groundwater under the area, surface water streams and rivers, and the soil in the local area and possibly beyond. Local residents, visitors, and workers may have been exposed to the chemicals which are known to be carcinogenic at very low concentrations.

Chemicals

PFAS (per-and poly fluoroalkyl substances) is a group of chemicals with fluoride in the formula which comprises at least 5,000 individual substances. They have been commonly used in various products due to their non-stick and water repellent properties such as in frying pans. In many of those products, the PFAS chemicals are bound in and generally do not get released in a way that damages human health or the environment. In contrast, in Bentham, PFAS has been used in fire-fighting products such as foams which are sprayed into the environment where they then can impact human health and environmental receptors.

When analysing the impacts of pollutants, specific thresholds are identified, below which they are not considered to pose a significant risk. Such levels are typically measured in parts per thousand or parts per million. In the case of PFAS, acceptable levels are extremely low, in the parts per billion level. This indicates the potency of these chemicals.

Potential sources: Angus Fire Bentham.

Angus Fire describe themselves as “The global leader in firefighting technology”. They have a large manufacturing and testing facility in the town of Bentham in Lancashire. It is reported that the Angus Fire site at Bentham recorded the highest concentration of PFAS chemicals in the U.K., many thousands of times higher than acceptable standards allow.

Receptors

Cleaner Bentham are concerned that the following groups may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals:

- Former and current workers at Angus Fire.
- Local Residents.
- Visitors to Bentham
- Site users of the Riverside Caravan Park nearby.
- Humans who consumed fish from a nearby fish farm.
- Fauna such as domestic animals, livestock and wild animals, also potentially impacting products such as milk and meat.
- There is also concern that insect life may also have been impacted.

Pathways

The following are examples of possible pathways by which the various receptors are thought to have been potentially exposed:

1. The manufacturing and testing of firefighting products such as foams is thought to have released PFAS chemicals into the air, where they may have been directly inhaled by workers, residents and visitors. Recent work by consultants Ramboll have recorded PFAS chemicals on land around the Angus Fire facility. It is understood that the PFAS chemicals got onto that land via an airborne route (via smoke, particulates / dust and in vapour suspension).
2. It is possible that the airborne PFAS was also exposed to local fauna, aquatic and livestock products, via inhalation.
3. Environment Agency Compliance Assessment Reports have shown that Angus Fire has released PFAS chemicals into the local stream over many years. This stream flows into a nearby river, where a fish farm formerly operated. It is understood from local knowledge that the fish farm produced fish for human consumption.
4. There are allotments close to the Angus Fire Facility. It is possible that the soils in this allotment (and potentially other local gardens and fields) are impacted with PFAS chemicals. Produce from the allotments and gardens may contain PFAS which has then been consumed by local residents.
5. CB has been told that Bentham's water supply is from Yorkshire Water and is not impacted. However, the groundwater under the site and town is known to contain PFAS. PFAS was identified in the borehole at the Riverside Caravan Park. The borehole license records that the borehole water is used for drinking water.
6. Anecdotal reports from local residents describe how local residents, including children, came into direct dermal contact with firefighting foams. Angus Fire has indicated that such occurrences may pre-date the use of PFAS chemicals. This is to be determined by closer analysis of available evidence.
7. CB understands from current and former Angus Fire staff that they worked with the products containing the PFAS chemicals and may have had some exposure via dermal, inhalation, and possibly ingestion routes. There are also reports of no breathing or clothing protection being used by staff when working with such materials.
8. . Angus has a permit to discharge waste into the sewer system. There have been recent and historic incidents of Angus Fire discharging waste water to the sewer farm, which United Utilities (in the form of Slurry) sells to local farms to help grow Livestock and crops.

Aims of Cleaner Bentham.

Cleaner Bentham is a group of local residents and supporters who are concerned about the impact that PFAS chemicals may have had on its community. CB is concerned that Bentham has a higher rate of cancer than would be expected for a rural community. CB wishes to see that adequate remediation works are undertaken to protect the local community, and to support those who have been impacted. CB are aware of the “fears” of local residents and wish that any information communicated to the public is technically robust, open and honest.