

Audio file

[Town council meeting 6th January.m4a](#)

Transcript

00:00:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

1st and not for any particular reason.

00:00:04 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Then arrives first OK on the and this fire situation and as he continues to follow his scope of work philosophy of containment, characterization and corrective spoke.

00:00:17 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Creative action stroke remediation containment. As you know, we have established that the western part of our facility close to the goods and redundant farm and has some big fast contamination. Our objective is to ensure that this contamination remains on site.

00:00:31 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

She's worried continue to capture surface water runoff in those areas and storage in intermediate.

00:00:40 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

We are now starting over 2.9 million metres of storm water. In addition to sending another approximately two 200,000 metres away for high temperature in the simulation, we intend to intend to continue to capture this long water until we have a new storm water treatment facility in place.

00:00:53 Speaker 2

I.

00:00:58 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

This is scheduled to become.

00:01:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Creation of.

00:01:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

The middle of February.

00:01:02 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

At this point, we will start to process and clean the captured storm water alongside the new rainfall and stormwater. So this process is processing the expected to take many months. Exactly how long it depends on the amount of regular rainfall that we added to the already captured volumes.

00:01:18 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

As part of our FIFA sampling and testing programmes, cycle identified contamination in drainage and our frontage remain.

00:01:24 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Work to regularly training force.

00:01:27 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Potatoes, which will which will be held to process.

00:01:34 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So priority is to determine the issue. The Environment Agency agrees that this is the most appropriate action for us to take in the immediate term.

00:01:44 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Characterised nation this information from the information this information from site and surrounding areas required by the regulator in violent agency.

00:01:53 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Been obtained by independent and Industry leading environmental consultants. It will provide the depth and breadth of analysis.

00:02:01 Cllr Adams (Mayor) Speaker 1

To better understand what contamination there is and where it is located and then determine what corrective action stroke remediation is required.

00:02:11

I.

00:02:16 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

And the actions we take also adapt appropriately if things do change, then we will react to those changes in a proactive manner. The more characterization that is undertaken, the more we learn testing of water flows in the draining system from the town itself.

00:02:18

I.

00:02:34 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

That travel through the owners site down.

00:02:35 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Through the.

00:02:36 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

It showed that PFAS is already present before such rotors.

00:02:39 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Could have been.

00:02:41 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Based on our current understanding impacted by the historic.

00:02:46 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Operations undertaken by Angus. This is to be expected as P fast are unambiguous.

00:02:54 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Ous the result from a very wide range of sources, they results are from a very wide range of sources and are in many household products.

00:03:02 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

And chemicals used on a daily basis. Initial feedback from independent consultants after taking samples from the river when it included the following finding, despite PFAS concentration in groundwater and as fire large scale transport and master shirts deliver when is not demonstrated in the water quality.

00:03:22 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

This should be seen as very good news for everyone concerned about the quality of the water.

00:03:28 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

The river Wenning corrective.

00:03:31 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Mediation has communicated last month the purchase order for the stonewater treatment facility has been placed and we're still expecting delivery in January and for it to be fully functional in February. We are continuing our discussion with those residents whose properties are close on the gooes are redundant from time in order to determine responsible ways in which we can resolve the situation.

00:03:51 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

We have not received notice of any legal action. We will continue to work closely with the regulator and will provide regular updates.

00:04:01 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

As we work through these very challenging issues over the months and years ahead, and that's from Paul Williams, the Managing Director.

00:04:15 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So, dear Mayor, deputy mayor and councillors, as you're aware, since May 2024, the revelation of the extent of pollution surrounding the Emirates wayside, Bentham, a group of concerned residents, has put together a nonprofit group, clean up.

00:04:25

I.

00:04:31 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

To research and identify issues that.

00:04:33 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Affect the environment and the town of Betham and beyond.

00:04:37 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Group of experts in their field helping us to determine 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 spent over 400.

00:04:53 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Hours learning about the effects of PFAS, the history of possible pollution pathways from anecdotal evidence. This has.

00:05:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

To wide.

00:05:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Concerns about the truth being kept from not just our community, but those down the way, and for and those family communities that have purchased fire solids waste from the sewage farming.

00:05:16 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

The harmless pollution may have caused is unimaginable and in truth, scary. It seems that Council is unaware of the extent of this issue.

00:05:25 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

And firstly, in the recent press release, we have revealed that we have instructed.

00:05:26

Yeah.

00:05:30 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

International law firm Mishcon de Reya.

00:05:38 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Ices, 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 tuition down the Wenning.

00:05:52 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Of course, residents and businesses are free to choose their own representation should be. List press releases have been picked up by BBC News the Ng.

00:06:11 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Communities that are affected by this situation. Secondly, we have had contact with Robert below or below who is a US lawyer who has DuPont in 1999 where in the town of Parkersburg.

00:06:27 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Suffolk contamination from Peef has waste used to build up, was very supportive of our action, often help if you could and acknowledge he knew a ISG.

00:06:39 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Don't know what AISG.

00:06:43 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

And today, us legal issues with 900 lawsuits. Thirdly, we now we are now a member of Friends of the Earth and are in contact with the Kent Trust, the latter being the charity that acts against this type of dangers coming from use. We are working with them to make changes to environmental.

00:07:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

4th fourthly, we have approached understand to help with the cost of blood testing of our community, but so far they have ignored our test for financial support.

00:07:13 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

The world's leading toxicologist to help with blood testing, environmental test 6.

00:07:21 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

I've enclosed a copy of pollution experts initial briefing for your attention that has been circulated on e-mail.

00:07:28 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

When a full copy of this, sorry, when a full copy of his impact report has been reviewed under these rule also passes, we expect the final report to be available from January of February 2025, along with our March.

00:07:41 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Along with.

00:07:41 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Of our test results.

00:07:44 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

7th we have agreed the local general practise medical surgery.

00:07:49 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Who are aware and engaged with our mission and doing research into illness in the area. Hopefully they will be able to assist with drawing gloves and taking fluids. We hope this letter draws the attention of the Council to the severity of this situation and it recognises that Bentham's reputation could be perfectly damaged should we not.

00:08:09 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

They are open and willing to work with the.

00:08:11 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

To.

00:08:12 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

For remediation of the PFS contamination and to investigate the source of such contamination which might be emanated during and as far as presence in the 1970s, this is unfortunately a potential huge environmental issue. The tests currently being carried out.

00:08:27 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Are fantastic first step, but they only they constitute only a small.

00:08:31 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

I will not test all those in or around them who are potentially affected and would like to be tested. The tests also don't do not deal with the self contamination, the area which we believe may be widespread and will of course affect property practises.

00:08:47 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

But we also need further testing to establish how widespread the determination of the waning and downstream Bentham. This is a huge issue for the area and one which our local Council we need support and result.

00:09:00 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

That we please, would you meet with us to discuss next steps and how we achieve justice for them? If you've already taken action in less disease you, please let me know. And that's from Mat MacEley-Young, the chair.

00:09:18 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Check any comment on either of the updates first.

00:09:24 Speaker 3

And then say what they said.

00:09:28 Speaker 1

So the second bit is the vast.

00:09:31 Cllr Adams (Mayor) Speaker 1

To meet with us to discuss the next steps.

00:09:34 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

1st, we do want to meet with clean event from at this point.

00:09:40 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

They need to meet with Environment Agency first.

00:09:45 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So. So just to so where the town council was at the moment, so the town council?

00:09:50 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

At the meeting.

00:09:53 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

With Angus Fire just prior to Christmas.

00:09:58 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Which?

00:09:59 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

To be, to be honest, the majority of what?

00:10:03 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Using his up there on his face update this month is what was discussed at that meeting.

This is there's nothing that he went into great detail about how the plant works. I think it's to to keep it of how you know and how that becomes operational. And one thing and.

00:10:20 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So there was a lot about the plant and how that works and it's basically a train of twatters and the bolting together to get the levels down to what would be acceptable for the environment.

00:10:31 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

We as a Council have contacted, contacted the Environment Agency separately at the request of future South or better last meeting.

00:10:40 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

We've had a response from the Environmental agency.

00:10:50 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

There's any information at this moment in time. The pleasure's getting you open and I'd get exactly what you've said. So.

00:10:58 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

I'll just read it. I'll just read. I'll just.

00:11:01 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

That.

00:11:01 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

As well. So so.

00:11:05 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So we put the Freedom of Information requesting as the Council and the Environment Agency, and that request was whether the Environment Agency has conducted any views into the PFAS chemical issue in our own benefit since the summer of 2023.

00:11:19 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

What we got back was thank you for your inquiry received on the 10th of December. We responded to the Freedom of Information Act Code 2000, environmental Agent, Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Please find our response below.

00:11:33 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Most of the work we undertake is a review.

00:11:38 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Rethink that. And the Angus Fire destiny would be most useful to you. Unfortunately, if this were to be requested, we would be unable to disclose it at this time. This is because it relates to an ongoing investigation and could be used as potential.

00:11:55 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

However, we can confirm that our area environment manager's planning on contacting you early next year.

00:12:01 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So hopefully this year 'cause it came in December to discuss this matter further. So we are waiting for.

00:12:07 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Environmental signal to.

00:12:09 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Contact the Council then, so that they can come and update us.

00:12:17 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

And.

00:12:18 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

And basically that's from a customer engagement officer from recovery and Lancashire department. So they must cover North Yorkshire a little.

00:12:27 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

Too so.

00:12:28 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So we'll give him a a week or so.

00:12:32 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

To contact us and.

00:12:43 Cllr Adams (Mayor)

So.

00:12:45 Speaker Cllr Marshall

If there's something to shout about and they think they can take action, then they will. But I mean, I do think after the last meeting I think anger, spying and particularly all have to be congratulated.

00:13:00 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

At the speed.

00:13:03 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Of how they've got things.

00:13:06 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Done and under control and they know what they're doing and where they going in the fact that they're employed 2 set, not one set of consultants 2.

00:13:18 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Which is a big thing. Oh yeah, it's.

00:13:20 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

If one misses something, the other one's gonna pick it up so you know that. I thought that was a pretty good management.

00:13:27 Cllr Marshall

And and anything that they do do is also being improved.

00:13:31 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Yeah.

00:13:32 Cllr Adams

Going forward so.

00:13:35

I.

00:13:35 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Think we'll wait and see what we get from the Environment Agency.

00:13:41 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

It is fair to say that Angus is in the team down there with all their consultants and contractors are working in a positive way to try and.

00:13:50 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Find out how to go out. Come for this.

00:13:54 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

Situation and I I don't, I don't have any issues with thinking that they're going to get there. You know, the amount of work they've done over the last 12 months since they started is phenomenal.

00:13:56 Cllr Adams

Yeah.

00:14:06 Cllr Adams

Yeah, I think just without you know, I know how it works in industry.

00:14:06 Tony Burton Deputy Mayor

And I've been.

00:14:11 Cllr Adams

You know it's.

00:14:12 Cllr Adams

One of the two, and even at the plant, you know, built, approved, shipped and lots and stuff within.

00:14:23 Cllr Adams

Right. So see whether it goes over.

00:14:25 Cllr Adams

Next, next month, again we're getting.

00:14:27 Cllr Adams

Update at.

00:14:27 Cllr Adams

February meeting also from the environment as well.

