



BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Bentham Town Hall, Station Road,
Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7LH
Tel/Fax: 015242 62587
Email: townclerk@benthamtowncouncil.co.uk

Friday 2nd August

Minutes – Wednesday 31st July 2024 – 7:30pm, Lower Hall

Councillors in attendance: Cllrs Adams, Burton, Hill, Marshall, Ryan and Stannard.

Town Clerk – Claire Burrow

MOP – 11

Bentham News – 2

Council recognised the recent tragedy in Southport with a moments silence before beginning the meeting.

Chair stated that Councillor Naylor had resigned. Council are now able to Co-Opt Councillors, questionnaires are now available.

91. Apologies from members unable to attend: -

90.1 To Note Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

Cllrs Paige and Taylor

90.2 To consider acceptance of reasons for absence – if consideration of reason requested.

AGREED

92 Declaration of Interest: -

92.1 To Note Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

NONE

92.2 To Approve Dispensation Requests – if dispensation request received.

NONE

93 To receive Comment & Concerns:

Public participation – to hear matters raised by members of the public or Cllrs with an interest (that are allowed to speak) either on agenda items or for future consultation. (NB: for non-agenda items Members of the Council are not permitted to respond, except to ask questions for the purposes of clarification; The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 20 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes).

MOP1 – 102.4 – When will Town Council be able to provide public with information regarding a meeting with representatives from Angus Fire? IS the River Wenning being tested? And by whom? With members of the River Wenning group and members of the public receiving the results. From residents that are concerned about possible historic and ongoing contamination of their properties; contamination from flood water, ground water run offs from the contaminated Angus' site and the sewage outflow from United Utilities, PFAS chemicals have been discharged through the treatment works, which are inadequate to process the volume of waste water during heavy rainfall. This has backed up and flowed into residential properties, the polluted water flows into the river. What action will be taken to protect Bentham residents from this pollution?

MOP2 – 102.4 - Weather is fine and the children will be in the river, the storm drain contains unspeakables, the clean water outlet is dirty and is not fit for purpose. Thinking of further develop in Bentham as this is not adequate.

MOP3 – 102.1 - A keen cyclists between Low and High Bentham, cycling in a 20mph zone more relaxing, cycling in Bentham is hazardous, the children will be more confident to cycle is they feel safer with a lower speed limit. The petition there was an overwhelming majority of correspondences in Low Bentham for the 20mph speed limit, with recommendations going to North Yorkshire.

This speed limit can be enforced, there has been a Police presence on Low Bentham road monitoring the speeding, there are safe places to carry out a community speed watch. An indicator speed device is only telling you that if you are doing 30mph that is ok. Priority is not the rest of Yorkshire but Bentham.

MOP4 – 102.1 – A passionate resident of Bentham, realised that speed was an important issue, inspired to begin a petition regarding a 20mph speed limit, after a few days out of 258 people asked, only 16 were against and 6 undecided, 93.8% stated yes. Now we have collected over 900 signatures, in 2021 the parish of Bentham has a population of 3,033, we have only scratched the surface and continue until September then send to NYC. Other places that have a 20mph zone seem calm and tranquil. People have a great intent when driving through residential areas in Bentham.

MOP5 – requested an update on buses, the issues have all been logged with NYC, responded that they were not aware of the bus passes not being registered, a bus that had not turned up.

MOP6 – representing the school, invited into school, where majority of children quite spontaneously has mentioned the fear they have of getting to school as a pedestrian, the cars are driving past so fast. The pupils completed a field work around Bentham observing traffic, wrote letters to the Town Council, pupils also took on the petition and petitioned parents as they arrived and left school. What we found overwhelmingly is this fear and it is very dangerous around the chip shop or going down Station Road, traffic is speeding by, and how it feels to be a small child or a child in a pushchair, children are on scooters wobbling too near the edge of the kerb. What struck me the most is the height of the children, are very close to the exhaust fumes, these young lungs are breathing in the pollution with traffic increasing substantially over the last few years. We don't need to look at statistics, we can feel it, we know it is there. Use all these bullet points when approaching NYC. Full support from public.

MOP7 – The footpath along the Coach House/Brown Cow, the footpath needs re-gravelling. MOP is prepared to complete this with support from Council.

- 94 To **Confirm the Minutes** of the meeting on Monday 15th July, as a true and accurate record. **Minutes circulated to Councillors were the incorrect minutes, therefore this has been DIFFERED to the next Council meeting.**
- 95 To receive the **Police Report** & allow members to ask questions for information - If any.

We have had 35 incidents reported between 29.06.24 & 29.07.24.

Reports Include General Admin from other Police force, Safeguarding, Abandon/Hoax call, Sudden Death, wanted persons, Civil dispute, Unwanted calls, Crime fraud – banking, Abandon vehicle – checked in order, Highway disruption – Cattle Thickrash Brow & Ravens Close.

5 reports Crime Violence/concern for welfare & safety – joint partnership working

30.06.24 & 14.07.24 – Road Related offence – manner of driving – Mewith Lane & Springfield

07.07.24 & 26.07.24 – Crime violence

08.07.24 & 11.07.24 & 23.07.24 - Concern for Safety/ Welfare joint partnership working

09.07.24 & 23.07.24 - Neighbour dispute

15.07.24& 23.07.24 – Domestic Incident

19.07.24 – Criminal damage – Low Bentham

26.07.24 – ASB Nuisance

27.07.24 – Domestic incident

How to report speeding concerns - Speed Management Protocol

www.northyorkshire.police.uk/search?q=speeding+concern

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community. Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You will also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys. www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

Working to keep North Yorkshire a safe place to live, visit & work please visit www.northyorkshire.police.uk.

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101, online or 999 if urgent.

Kind Regards

Jayne

PCSO Jayne Grace

Collar number 5561

Dedicated Safer Neighbourhood PCSO

Settle Ingleton & Bentham area

North Yorkshire Police

101

96 To receive a **Report from NYC Councillor** (for information only) - If any
NONE RECEIVED

97 To **receive and note** the following planning decision/information:

- 97.1 ZA24/25902/LBC Listed building works in association with proposed conversion of former squash courts / store and demolitions to create a new single dwelling
Former Squash Court Building, Now Store, On The Corner Of Duke Street And Main Street,
High Bentham
Grants Listed Building Consent
NOTED

- 97.2 ZA24/25851/FUL Proposed conversion of former squash courts / store and demolitions to create a new single dwelling and erection of a new garage in the existing car park. As above
Grants Full Planning Permission
NOTED

- 97.3 ZA24/25879/FUL Single storey side extension to existing commercial building The Rollershed, Butts Lane, High Bentham, Lancaster, North Yorkshire, LA2 7JZ,
Grants Full Planning Permission
NOTED

98 **Financial Matters:**

- a. To receive and note current bank balances as at 11:00 Thursday 25th July **£81,495.03**

NOTED

- b. To note the pre-agreed contractual payments.

NOTES

- c. To approve the payments.

Status	Order No	Tender	Date	Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Supplier	Description	VAT	Total
Outstanding	168	Online	11/07/2024	11/07/2024	2245865547	EE Mobile	Caretaker and Clerk's phone	£10.40	£62.40
Outstanding	167	ONLINE	26.07.2024	20.05.2024	6065	Scribe	Accounts package	£135.36	£812.16
Outstanding	166	ONLINE	24.07.2024	20.07.2024	1290	Kingsdale Projects (Kingsdale Projects)	groundswork	£0.00	£3,085.00
Outstanding	165	DIRDEBIT	23.07.2024	20.07.2024	203043119121	1&1 Ionos	Internet	5.61	£33.64
Outstanding	164	ONLINE	22.07.2024	16.07.2024	113130	Trent Furniture	chairs	£82.80	£496.80
Outstanding	163	ONLINE	22.07.2024	31.07.2024	Jul 2024		Salary	£0.00	£249.66
Outstanding	162	ONLINE	22.07.2024	31.07.2024	Jul 2024		Salary	£0.00	£1,213.21
Outstanding	161	ONLINE	22.07.2024	31.07.2024	July 2024		Salary	£0.00	£1,152.31
Outstanding	158	ONLINE	15.07.2024			HMRC PAYE etc (HMRC)	HMRC PAYE etc	£0.00	£2,070.47
Outstanding	156	ONLINE	15.07.2024	11.07.2024	July 2024	Clearglass Cleaning (Clearglass Cleaning)	Window Cleaning	£0.00	£75.00
Outstanding	155	ONLINE	15.07.2024	31.05.2024	395924	Huws Gray	compost	£4.99	£29.94
Outstanding	154	ONLINE	15.07.2024			Ace Elevators	Lift	£365.00	£2,190.00
Outstanding	151	ONLINE	03.07.2024	28.06.2024	1085684203	Stannah (Stannah)	Lift service	£39.71	£238.24
Outstanding	150	ONLINE	03.07.2024			Ruth Green	relief caretaker	£0.00	£510.00
Outstanding	149	ONLINE	03.07.2024			Oglethorpe	land	£0.00	£986.00
Outstanding	148	ONLINE	03.07.2024	28.06.2024	586380/1	Thomas Graham (Thomas Graham)	Cleaning materials	£40.17	£241.00
Outstanding	147	ONLINE	03.07.2024	02.07.2024	10627	Harrison & Cross	electrical inspection in town hall	£191.54	£1,149.24
Outstanding	146	ONLINE	03.07.2024	23.06.2024	110	Elkerlodge Services Ltd	Locum RFO	£166.80	£1,000.80
Outstanding	145	ONLINE	03.07.2024	01.07.2024	30374981	Citron (Citron)	Sanitary Disposal Unit	£5.09	£30.53
Outstanding	144	ONLINE	03.07.2024	04.06.2024	341994560	Total Energies (Total Energies)	Electricity	£201.42	£1,208.52
Outstanding	143	ONLINE	03.07.2024	20.05.2024	42341	Howsons ltd (Howsons Ltd)	Alarm and emergency light work	£57.13	£342.79
Outstanding	137	DIRDEBIT	25.06.2024	11.06.2024	VO2235392749	EE Mobile	Mobiles	£11.02	£66.12
Outstanding	101	DIRDEBIT	10.06.2024	10.06.2024		North Yorkshire Council	excess waste	£0.32	£1.90
Outstanding	80	ONLINE	07.05.2024	01.05.2024	30362998	Citron (Citron)	Sanitary Disposal Unit	£6.00	£36.00
Outstanding	68	ONLINE	31.03.2024	12.03.2024	935344	ADC	Auto Door	£35.40	£212.40
Outstanding	160	DIRDEBIT	22/04/2024	15/04/2024	490011800	North Yorkshire Council	Trade Waste Collection	£0	£743.04
Outstanding	153	DIRDEBIT	22/06/2024	22/06/2024	1792113-0	Sky Business	Broadband and telephones	£10.99	£65.94
Outstanding	157	DIRDEBIT	22/07/2024	08/07/2024	IVO1149582	SSE Energy Solutions	Unmetered Street Lights	£11.60	£243.52
Outstanding	159	DIRDEBIT	07/07/2024	07/07/2024	INV06213249	Waterplus	Waste Water Town Hall	0	£88.76

APPROVED – authorise payments – Cllrs Marshall and Burton (redacted names of staff)

99 **Town Hall Updates:**

- 99.1 To consider the quote for the cleaning of the Wenningdale Carpet/Clerk's Office.

RESOLVED - APPROVED

- 99.2 To consider the purchasing of a smaller table trolley to fit in the lift.

RESOLVED – DIFFERED to Buildings Committee.

100 **Open Spaces:**

- 100.1 To receive an update from the Open Spaces Committee and decide if further action is required.

Cllr Marshall gave an update regarding the potential cemetery expansion with finances and a proposal as the cemetery is becoming full, street lighting was looked at, Duke Street lighting will be connected, focus on tree pruning, considered looking at the hardening the Phillip Harvey Playing Fields path to ensure better access for wheelchair and prams, this does not belong to Council and therefore Council cannot spend money on a project not on their land.

100.2 To consider increasing the Cemetery prices.

RESOLVED – Open Spaces to create proposal recommendations of prices compared to other places.

100.3 To consider the quote for trimming the hedge on the Butts Lane footpath.

RESOLVED – belongs to NYC, request NYC to maintain the over grown footpath.

101 To receive information on the following **ongoing issues and decide further action** where necessary:

101.1 To receive an update on the Japanese Knotweed.

NOTED – there has been a treatment 1 of the Japanese Knotweed, with treatment 2 in Aug – Nov 2024, brush cut (if required) in Jan – April 2025, treatment 3 May – Aug 2025.

101.2 To receive an update on the Bentham Boost programme.

Cllr Ryan – NYC approached Council with funding from UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Micheala Young the Senior Business Advisor and Sharon Sunter, Principal Regeneration Officer from NYC, along with two Councillors, Cllrs Ryan and Paige, five businesses; Jon Brook, Bentham Imaging, Christine Grieve, Temptations, Micheal Reid, Bentham Hub, Simon Ward, Atkinson Vos and Thomas Marshall, Riverside Caravan Park. With three key themes: ‘Networking’ Bentham, ‘Supporting’ Bentham and ‘Enhancing’ Bentham. Which take on board some of the thoughts of enhancing the Town Centre. This funding has to be spent by March 2025. First meeting on Thursday 1st August.

101.3 To consider a further course of action regarding the Automatic Door Company.

RESOLVED – to make a formal complaint to the ADC, regarding the service charge two days after the call out charge communicating the same issues.

102 **Correspondence received:** To receive information on the following new correspondences and decide further action, if any;

102.1 *‘Vehicle Speed Concerns’* letter from Member of the Public and the local Primary School letters, along with speed indicator devices.

BTC have supported the speed limit decrease before, notably past the school, NYC have been contacted previously around the planning linked to Springfield regarding speed, when cars were logged at 50+mph during speed monitoring. The report (appendix A) submitted by a member of the public is very factual and accurate, containing data, this has been forwarded to members of Parliament.

Council understand the fear of the school pupils, when the new school was in the planning stage Council insisted that the area was made as safe as it could, suggestions to narrow the road, provide a pull in area, cycle lane, alternative route and a pelican crossing. Limited measures have been put in place to ensure safety.

RESOLVED – ACTION - contact NYC Highways to request what criteria is necessary for a 20mph zone and the process Council have to go through in line with NYC policy, request a NYC member to visit Bentham, pull all evidence together, copy in the new Mayor and PCSO, question NYC what SID can the Council erect within their Parish in line with NYC policy?

RESOLVED – ACTION – to write the school to say thank you for the letters, explain that Council were concerned when the school was built and what action is being taken by the Council now.

102.2 Response of the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills, Councillor Annabel Wilkinson

RESOLVED – ACTION Clerk to write a strong letter to NYC expressing how disappointed Council are with the decision. Request how many children attend Settle College and QES from Bentham?

102.3 Response of the Punch Bowl licensing applicant with comment from Bentham Town Council to reduce the outside drinking times.

RESOLVED – to contact applicant to state thanks and to wish her well, the Punch Bowl looks good as people drive into Low Bentham.

102.4 To receive an update from Angus Fire.

RECEIVED – appendix B

RESOLVED – contact Angus Fire – looking forward to receiving further updates, request could the off-site testing include areas of the River Wenning these test results shared, intentions of time scales and possible meeting with public and Angus Fire representatives.

102.5 North Yorkshire Council 'Let's Talk Rubbish' consultations.

RESOLVED – to respond with Option 1 as the preferable option, remaining as fortnightly collections.

102.6 To consider the request from Bentham Playing Fields to receive a reduced hire cost of the Town Hall.

RESOLVED – to request further details of potential events from the Playing Fields to re-consider the reduced price.

102.7 Buses – Wednesday 3rd July the 582 bus did not turn up due to technical issue, members of public had to phone and request a replacement, users' passes are not being registered, the bus to Hornby drops off at the War Memorial which is not a bus stop – all reported to Passenger Transport at NYC.

RESOLVED – to continue communicating issues with NYC as the service is inadequate at present.

103 Staffing Matters:

103.1 To consider a course of action when the Clerk is off.

RESOLVED – Chair will monitor emails and check the answer phone in the Office.

103.2 To receive the Clerk's report.

RECEIVED – appendix C.

104 To receive **Reports from Councillors** who represent the Council on other bodies (for information only) - If any.

Cllr Ryan – Music on the Field – 1st September.

Cllr Marshall – Collingwood Almshouses have a new trustee of Thomas Wills.

Cllr Burton – Longstaffe Education Foundation quiz – 1st Aug, Council have a team.

Cllr Adams – Goodenber Play Area – met on 30th July, the ROSPA inspection is due in September, money from the section 106 agreement from Felstead was spent in November. NYC are drafting new lease, being looked at by the 'in-house' play area solicitor. Main issue is the non-emptying of bins by NYC, they are prioritising areas so sometimes missed, Cllr Adams often empties the bins himself and takes home.

105 Items for next meeting **and minor items for information only.**

United Utilities

Coach House/Brown Cow path

Cleveland Square street light

106 Date of **next meeting.** – Finance meeting – **Monday 19th August at 7:30pm**

Marketing and Development – **Monday 16th September at 7:30pm**

Full Council meeting – **Monday 2nd September at 7:30pm**

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

C Burrow

Claire Burrow

Town Clerk

Friday 2nd August 2024

Appendix A

Town Clerk
Bentham Town Council
Station Road
Bentham
LA2 7LH

19 June 2024

Dear Ms Burrow

I ask for this letter to be presented to Bentham Town Council's full council meeting on 1 July 2024. I was present at the Bentham Town Council meeting on 3 June 2024 sitting as a town councillor, I am aware that the Chair agreed to place speed issues on July's agenda. This was a result of Councillor Burton's agenda item in which he stated that the Council should seek to influence North Yorkshire to install average speed cameras like they are currently doing in other areas of North Yorkshire.

Given my background, I have conducted some research into road safety and speed enforcement issues in North Yorkshire and present this report which I hope will provide detailed information for the Town Council to consider in deciding its approach to speed. All data provided in this paper is readily available to the public.

It is unequivocally recognised within Road Safety groups that speed is a main contributory factor in road traffic collisions, speed being one of the 'fatal 5' which also includes, mobile phone use, non-wearing of seatbelts, drink/drug driving and careless/inconsiderate driving. The methods used to reduce casualties by police and road safety partnerships is through education, engagement, engineering and enforcement. It is also widely recognised that if a collision occurs, the higher the speed is more likely to result in a greater severity of injury.

North Yorkshire Current Policy

North Yorkshire Police and Council do not currently have any fixed or average speed cameras. They only conduct mobile speed enforcement and have 11 vans and 2 motorcycles for the whole of North Yorkshire. Any decision to change this policy / position is the responsibility of the Office of Police, Fire Crime and Commissioning which now sits within the Combined Authority which is the North Yorkshire Mayor. There does not appear to be any plans to install fixed speed cameras or average speed cameras in North Yorkshire at this time.

Speed concerns are a regular issue that is highlighted at Bentham Town Council meetings, social media platforms and in the Bentham News. In the June 2024 issue of Bentham News, Mrs Pearson the Executive Co-Headteacher of Bentham Primary School, reported that their pupils said '*speeding cars in Bentham is in their opinion the biggest local issue*'. In addition, the recent '20's Plenty' campaign shows local community concerns. This is further impacted by surrounding counties including Lancashire and Cumbria investing significantly in average speed camera and fixed site enforcement technology.

North Yorkshire Road Casualty Data

Having researched public data available on the internet, despite strong community concerns regarding speeding, there have been small numbers of road casualties within the Bentham area, however on roads surrounding Bentham, for example the A65 between Skipton and Kirkby Lonsdale there is a clear pattern of increased road casualties along this corridor, including fatalities.

Data obtained from York and North Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership shows the following road casualties recorded in North Yorkshire during the last 5 years (not including York City).

	Fatal	Serious	KSI	Slight	Total
2019	37	297	334	1111	1445
2020	36	214	250	939	1189
2021	32	249	281	1109	1390
2022	29	230	259	944	1203
2023	40	359	399	1195	1594
Total	174	1349	1523	5298	6821

KSI = Killed and seriously injured

The table shows that a total of 6821 people were injured of which 174 people were killed on the roads of North Yorkshire in the last 5 years. Whilst any one death is tragic, 174 and a further 1349 seriously injured people is shocking and unacceptable. In addition, during 2023 there was a disturbing increase in casualty numbers from 2022, rising higher to even higher levels than in 2019. **The increase in KSI's from 2022 to 2023 is a staggering +35%.** It should be noted that the national trend in road casualties is seeing an overall reduction of -4% in fatalities and -3% in serious injuries, therefore North Yorkshire is not falling in line with national reductions and North Yorkshire is also showing the highest levels of casualties within the group of most similar counties.

Further data has been obtained from the Department for Transport website from 2018 to 2022 looking at road speed limits and recorded casualty numbers. This shows that 77.5% of fatalities and 65.3% of serious injuries occur on 60mph limits within North Yorkshire. North Yorkshire is a rural county with a greater proportion of its roads being at the national speed limit of 60mph.

It should be acknowledged that the pandemic in 2020 may have had an impact upon road casualties in that there were fewer people using the roads during this time.

Motorcycle Casualties

Given the stunning countryside we are fortunate to experience in and around Bentham and North Yorkshire, this also attracts many motorcyclists to the counties roads. Whilst this letter will not attempt to discuss who is at fault in motorcycle collisions, the fact remains that a greater proportion of motorcyclists are killed and seriously injured on North Yorkshire roads compared to other road users. Within the UK in 2022 there were 1.34 million motorcycles registered and 32.17 million cars registered. Whilst on North Yorkshire's roads between 2019 and 2023, 46 motorcyclists were killed and a further 256 seriously injured. This equates to 27% of all KSI casualties being motorcyclists. Clearly, this is disproportionate to vehicle usage and as such they are a vulnerable road user group.

With bordering counties increasing their speed enforcement capability, this has led to anecdotal reports of motorcyclists altering their routes to travel on North Yorkshire roads as an alternative to other counties as they consider there is less chance of being caught speeding.

Speed Enforcement Options

Police Officer Enforcement

Traditionally, speed enforcement was only performed by police officers however with advancements in technology other methods have become available. Police officer resources are limited and whilst specific police operations targeting road safety issues are conducted they are unsustainable in the long term and also are dependant on other often spontaneous operational incidents which draws these resources away from road safety issues. North Yorkshire Police and Road Safety Partnership have this as an action within their strategy.

Mobile Camera Enforcement

Police staff conduct mobile speed enforcement in vans in line with community concerns, high casualty data and high recorded speeds. This form of speed enforcement is considered to be effective and flexible to respond to operational needs. North Yorkshire does provide this service and there is evidence of this in the Bentham area on the A65. There are limitations to this enforcement as suitable sites need to be assessed for health and safety reasons and the legal aspects required to secure convictions for speed offences.

Fixed Site Cameras

Fixed speed camera sites have been the most popular choice for most counties in the past. They are effective at the locations where the cameras are located, however critics say road users slow down at these sites then increase speeds immediately after leaving thereby negating the impact of the camera in relation to speed reduction.

Average Speed Cameras

Average speed cameras have been installed across the UK for a number of years, however the technology has progressed and become more affordable in recent years. They are particularly suited to rural roads where speed is a key factor in serious injury collisions and motorcycle casualties. Therefore, the roads surrounding Bentham could be considered to be very effective in reducing speed and casualties.

In 2016 approval was gained from the Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety to significantly invest in average speed camera technology. Eight locations were identified as being suitable based upon casualty data, recorded vehicle speeds and community concerns. The cameras were installed from March 2017 and completed in August 2018. An evaluation of the scheme has been obtained titled *'Rollout and Impacts of*

Permanent Average Speed Cameras in Lancashire' July 2021. The document provides a full explanation on the process, business case and evaluation of the Lancashire rollout.

This research concludes that the installation of average speed cameras has been successful in Lancashire.

- *The positive impacts of permanent average speed cameras on road users and the wider communities of Lancashire have been identified and proven to outweigh the financial and resourcing costs of installing, operating and maintaining them.*
- *Overall, collisions and casualties have reduced; both in numbers and in severity (levels of trauma).*
- *There is a greater acceptance of average speed cameras over more traditional methods of speed enforcement, such as spot-speed (static) cameras and mobile speed enforcement.*
- *Based upon the strong evidence bases and the experiences of operating average speed cameras in Lancashire, it is highly likely that average speed cameras will continue to be used to reduce road traffic collisions and casualties through the automated enforcement of speed limits.*

Since this report was commissioned, Lancashire has further invested in average speed technology by accessing funding from the Department for Transport and is currently rolling out a further 5 routes. Two of these sites impact upon Bentham as the routes are located on the A682 and A683.

Alternative Options to Enforcement

Enforcement is not the only method of reducing speed. Other methods which have been proven to reduce speeds and reduce community concerns regarding speed are schemes such as Community Road Watch, School Road Watch, Vehicle Activated Speed Signs and 20 mph limits.

Community Road Watch

Volunteers from the community work with local policing teams to conduct speed checks at locations where there are speeding / other road safety concerns for example using a mobile phone whilst driving. They use laser technology to capture speed levels, observations and record registration numbers. All sites must be formally risk assessed to ensure clear visibility and all volunteers suitable trained and wearing high visibility clothing. Any offending drivers are sent a warning letters advising them of the dangers of speeding and urging them to reduce speeds.

From liaising with the local policing team, community road watch was attempted to be set up a few years ago, however there were insufficient volunteers to implement a scheme in Bentham.

School Road Watch

Similar to community road watch but with school children outside schools. Health and Safety risk assessments are essential in relation to this and some schools may consider this to be prohibitive.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

Vehicle activated speed signs can be an effective tool in reducing vehicle speeds and reducing community concerns at a relatively small cost. North Yorkshire has a policy in place Town / Parish councils can purchase signs subject to them complying with the policy and their approval. At this time North Yorkshire will not fund the purchase or maintenance of such signs. These devices are not permitted to show the speed the vehicle is travelling, the signs supported by North Yorkshire council are signs which show the speed limit and if the speed exceeds this limit a warning sign 'slow down' activates. This policy provides clear guidance for the purchase and installation. Current signs available on the market can include solar powered and the ability to gather speed data and remote downloads. Estimated costs of one sign is currently around £3500 to £4000. Whilst this policy (2019) states the signs should be battery operated, it has been confirmed that they can now be powered by mains or solar powered electricity.

20 mph Limits

20mph limits have been introduced in many towns and villages in the UK and North Yorkshire including towns near Bentham. Such schemes can divide public opinion and the success as to whether they reduce vehicle speeds and casualties is varied. They are usually implemented in urban areas or villages and outside schools where 30mph speed limits previously existed. 20mph limits do not require additional speed calming measure like speed humps, unlike 20mph zones, however repeater signs and additional road markings are required. 20mph limits are generally difficult to enforce by the police as there are often parked cars on such roads and locations to safely conduct speed enforcement safely, this also includes conducting community road watch operations. The enforcement issue is often a significant area of concern for some members of the public. Town and Parish councils were consulted by North Yorkshire in recent

years and on 4 September 2023 it was discussed at Bentham Town Council meeting where it was decided not to support 20mph limits.

Summary / Conclusion

Speed is clearly a concern for the community of Bentham. A total of 6821 people were injured on North Yorkshire roads with 174 being killed in the last 5 years. KSI's have increased in North Yorkshire by +35% in the last year despite nationally there being a reduction of between -3% and -4%. Motorcycle casualties are a key vulnerable group with our roads being attractive to motorcycle riders and anecdotal evidence that many are altering their routes due to the lack of speed enforcement. North Yorkshire currently only delivers mobile speed enforcement and does not support the use of fixed or average speed camera enforcement despite it being proven to reduce vehicle speed and casualties and to be cost effective and something that has general community support. It is recognised that installation of average speed camera systems is costly and will take time to install even if a policy change is decided upon. In the meantime, Bentham community is still concerned about speeding. Therefore, alternative solutions should be considered by Bentham Town Council.

Bentham Town Council owes it to the communities of Bentham and North Yorkshire and those who use our roads to make them as safe as possible. By not investing in average speed camera technology and other local non-enforcement means, you are failing in protecting road users, which... is every one of us. We all use our roads.

As such I ask that the following is considered:

1. Formally contact the below key stakeholders to seek to influence them in reviewing North Yorkshire's position in respect of speed enforcement to deliver average speed camera enforcement technologies.
 - North Yorkshire Mayor (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner)
 - North Yorkshire Police Chief Constable
 - North Yorkshire Unitary Authority Chair
 - Member of Parliament (after general election)
2. Consider Bentham Town Council purchasing Vehicle Activated Speed Signs.
3. Should the public be supportive, consider re-approaching the local policing team to form a Community Road Watch group and / or School Road Watch group.
4. Continue to monitor the situation in respect of 20mph limits and should opinion change or develop, review in due course.

I do not intend to be present at the meeting on 1 July 2024, however ask that I am notified of any decisions made.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Howard



Bentham Town Council

Date: 30th July 2024

Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Councillors

Following recent communications, we write as promised to update you on our ongoing work to establish the extent and character of possible PFAS contamination in and around the factory site.

I would like to reiterate that we take this matter very seriously and are standing behind our commitment to fully understand the extent of the situation and then to remediate in agreement with the Environment Agency. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

- The Environment Agency visited Bentham again on Wednesday 3rd July and met with Ramboll and Angus representatives to discuss site characterisation status, and to visit the redundant foam plant.
- Ramboll have advised that they will be submitting their report to the Environment Agency and Angus in the next 2-3 weeks. This relates to groundwater samples taken on site and to the soil samples taken offsite. There has been a small delay in the report owing to the holiday period.
- Whilst we wait for the results, Ramboll are going to move forward W/C 29th July and undertake an increased number of samples both onsite and offsite, so that there will be more analytical data available at the next meeting with the Environment Agency. This should make it easier and quicker to determine any data gaps and where the Environment Agency want the next phase of PFAS testing to take place.
- Angus intends at that point to communicate quickly and directly with people and/or groups that may be impacted by the results. We will of course keep you informed about any such communications and consult with you about any near-term remedial work that may be necessary.
- There will also be a much broader update to the local community, using the new microsite www.derbs.co.uk and other channels where necessary. This will also be distributed in a timely manner, although we think it is right and proper to communicate first with any parties that are directly affected.
- We continue our investigation into filtration technologies. As previously discussed, we hope to have something in place in the next few months. At that point, we can treat the rainwater that we have been collecting onsite from the concrete surfaces at the redundant foam plant and the fire test site, in addition to the ongoing surface water run-off from those areas.

We will continue to provide regular updates to the Town Council, as we work through these challenges. We are determined to do the right thing in Bentham and to maintain our positive relationship with our neighbours in the community.

Yours faithfully

Paul Williams
Paul Williams
Managing Director

Appendix C

Clerk's Report – Thursday 25th July 2024

Items previously circulated to Council:

- YLCA White Rose Bulletin
- NALC's events
- NALC's Chief Executive Bulletin
- Micro-site from Angus Fire

Ongoing issues and updates:

- a. Calendar entry deadline is Monday 23rd September 2024, requested longer from Primary School to ensure engagement, advert entered in Bentham News, posters up, communicated to Bentham Youth Club via Katie and will post on Facebook.
- b. Colin Moore has looked at the roof tiles of the Town Hall and will contact Clerk with further details regarding a cherry picker.
- c. Still awaiting quote regarding the PHPF path.
- d. Staff have started the online health and safety courses.
- e. Three businesses have contacted the Clerk regarding the Bentham Boost funding.
- f. Phone line in lift has now been switched over – Windcrest have been contacted as the auto-dialler is not functioning.
- g. New flag erected.
- h. The arm chairs for the Ballroom have been ordered and will arrive mid to late August.
- i. Rose Graden (circulated email to Open Spaces) under the mandate of the new Parks and Grounds (West) Area Manager from North Yorkshire Council.
- j. Beaver Trees is happy to have a site meeting one evening regarding the trees.