**POOL-IN-WHARFEDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**INFORMAL SITES CONSULTATION**

**Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities**

The people of Pool-in-Wharfedale want to live in a community with a healthy generation mix, where community facilities allow for a sustainable, healthy and connected life. Community facilities are seen as vital to the needs of a growing and aging population. The response to the 2017 Policy Intentions Document consultation emphatically endorsed (over 91%) the intention to include a policy to safeguard community buildings and facilities.

Leeds City Council Core Strategy Policy P9 states that where proposals for development would result in the loss of an existing facility or service, satisfactory alternative provision should be made elsewhere within the community if a sufficient level of need is identified. This is interpreted as meaning both extant and closed facilities/services as long the existing use has not been superseded by planning permission for an alternative use.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy CFS1 will add to Policy P9 by specifying the facilities to which policy will apply. The parish council has identified a list of facilities which it considers should be retained within the area and the loss of which should be guarded against. Policy also goes on to set out the particular local circumstances which should govern loss or alternative provision, in particular the need for viability testing in respect of commercially provided facilities, such as a shop or public house. This is all within the context of amendments to the Government’s Use Classes Order in May 2017 which now permit certain changes in the use of facilities without the need for express planning permission, allowable changes which Policy CFS1 below reflects.

POLICY CFS1: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Development requiring planning permission which would result in the loss of any of the following community facilities, as shown on The Neighbourhood Plan Map, should provide alternative equivalent facilities wherever a sufficient level of continuing community need is identified:-

*(NB Final list of facilities to be added following consultation)*

Commercially provided facilities will constitute an exception to the above where it can be demonstrated that operation of the existing facility is no longer viable in terms of market attractiveness, following the marketing of the facility for at least one year.

Development acceptable in principle which would improve these facilities for the benefit of Pool-in-Wharfedale communities will be encouraged.

***(NB the facility understood to be of interest to you is shown on the enclosed map)***