

POOL-IN-WHARFEDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

INFORMAL SITES CONSULTATION

Existing Employment Sites

Pool was at its height as an employer in Victorian times, with Pool Bank and other quarries, the coming of the railway in 1865 and the mill complexes lining the River Wharfe, as well as its traditional agricultural base. Local employment was lost through the 20th century due to the closure of Pool Bank Quarry and the railway. Today, employment is largely centred on either side of Pool Road (the A659) in the north-west of the area, with Weidmann Whiteley's Paper Mill (a longstanding and important presence in Pool), and Pool Business Park the main sources of employment.

There is a desire to maintain a viable employment base within Pool and to encourage a sustainable business community where local businesses support and promote each other and continue to offer the potential of local jobs for local people. This is reflected in the fact that over 89% of respondents to the 2017 Policy Intentions Document consultation supported the intention to safeguard specified sites in continued employment use.

The Leeds Core Strategy (Policy EC3: Safeguarding Existing Employment Land and Industrial Areas) states that for sites in 'shortfall areas' (such as the Outer North West which includes Pool), proposals which would result in the loss of a general employment allocation or an existing use within the Government's Uses Classes B1b, B1c, B2 and B8, will only be permitted where the loss can be sufficiently offset by suitable land/premises availability in the surrounding area, including outside the areas of shortfall. While the policy intention is clearly commendable, an unintended consequence may be the loss of an employment use to another area/district.

The Submission Draft Leeds Site Allocations Plan (Policy EG1) proposes the retention of the following already 'identified' employment site within Pool:-

- EG1-7: Pool Road Otley (0.3ha/0.27ha capacity)

Accordingly, this site has now been developed for employment use, in the form of the new Whiteley Court units.

Other key existing employment sites are however not identified and this plan aims to extend the same protection to them, and to give site-specific focus to Policy EC3, through Policy E1 below.

POLICY E1: PROTECTION OF EXISTING EMPLOYMENT SITES

The following existing sites for business (including office), general industrial and storage and distribution uses, as identified on The Neighbourhood Plan Map, will be safeguarded in those uses. Development for alternative uses will normally not be permitted:-

(NB Final list to be added following consultation)

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