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# Report of the Chief Planning Officer

## SOUTH AND WEST PLANS PANEL

Date: 24th November 2016

Subject: Application 16/05575/FU – redevelopment of petrol filling station, comprising new sales building and canopy, new underground fuel storage tank and replacement underground petrol interceptor tank, and five metre high tank vent stack, replacement refueling forecourt, islands and dispensers, replacement resurfacing, retention of existing fuel storage tanks, and application 16/05576/ADV - two illuminated signs at Pool Bridge Filling Station, Pool Road, Pool in Wharfedale LS21 1EQ.

APPLICANT
Shell

16<sup>th</sup> September 2016

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Electoral Wards Affected:
Adel & Wharfedale

Yes

Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)

ATRGET DATE

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

16/05575/FU - GRANT PERMISSION subject to the specified conditions: 16/05576/ADV - GRANT EXPRESS CONSENT subject to the specified conditions:

#### 16/05575/FU:

- 1. Standard time limit 3 years
- 2. Build in accordance with the approved plans
- 3. Details of materials to be submitted
- 4. Hours of opening / deliveries / illumination 07:00-22:00 Monday to Saturday and 08:00-22:00 Sunday
- 5. Car park and servicing management plan
- 6. Surface water drainage details
- 7. Remediation statement required in the event of unexpected contamination
- 8. Any soil brought to the site to be tested for contamination

#### 16/05576/ADV:

- 1. Standard advertisement time condition 5 years
- 2. Signage in accordance with the approved plans
- 3. Standard advertisement conditions

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

- 1.1 These applications are brought to Plans Panel at the request of Councillor B Anderson and Councillor C Anderson who cite highway safety concerns. The Councillors have objected to the application for reasons summarised in paragraph 6.2 below. The applicant seeks both planning permission and advertisement consent for the works.
- 1.2 The applications propose the redevelopment of an existing petrol filling station. As it is an existing use the works are considered acceptable in principle. The impacts of the proposals have been carefully considered, and overall it is considered that they would not raise issues of material harm.

#### 2. PROPOSAL:

2.1 Planning permission and advertisement consent is sought for the redevelopment of an existing petrol filling station. The proposed filling station is described at 10.2 and 10.3 of this report and the proposed advertisements at 10.10.

## 3. SITE AND SURROUNDINGS:

- 3.1 The site is a petrol filling station. It is located to a triangle of land formed by a fork in the A659 Pool Road where it connects with the A658 Main Street. The existing development comprises the station forecourt and dispensers, forecourt shop, forecourt canopy and a car wash.
- 3.2 The site occupies a relatively prominent location to the North West edge of the built up area of Pool. It is therefore an important gateway location when entering the village from the north and west.
- 3.3 The site is a self-contained triangle of land formed by the surrounding road network. The nearest dwellings are those on the south side of Pool Road, and those on either side of Main Street, just to the south of the site. To the east there is a children's playground, while to the West and North there is open agricultural land and the River Wharfe respectively.
- 3.3 The site lies within the Pool in Wharfedale Conservation Area. The adopted Conservation Area Appraisal identifies the site as lying within 'character area 4', which is made up of suburban 20<sup>th</sup> century housing. A little to the north of the site there is the Grade 2 listed Pool Bridge which dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4. RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY:

4.1 The planning history of the site includes applications dating from 1977 onwards which refer to the use of the site as a petrol filling station. The current layout of the site appears to date from an approval granted in 1988, reference H29/7/88, for the sales kiosk, canopy etc. In 1997 the car wash was granted consent, reference 29/91/97/FU, as well as an illuminated signage scheme, reference 29/92/97/SI. The latter approval included conditions limiting the hours of illumination.

4.2 More recently in 2000 approval was granted under 29/53/00/FU for 4 four metre high floodlights. A subsequent approval in 2003, reference 29/220/03, allows for hours of floodlighting until 22.00 and hours of delivery 08:00 – 22:00 Monday – Saturday and 08:00 – 22:00 on Sundays.

## 5. HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS:

- The applicant has engaged positively with the LPA, and revised plans have been submitted in response to discussions regarding the issues raised by the proposals. The principal changes comprise improvements to the appearance of the scheme, and to the vehicular access arrangements.
- 5.2 Ward Members have been consulted on the proposals.

#### 6. PUBLIC/LOCAL RESPONSE:

- The application has been publicised by means of site notices, neighbour notification letters and an advertisement in the Yorkshire Evening Post in respect of the original submission. The revised proposals were also publicised by means of site notices around the site.
- 6.2 Councillor Barry Anderson and Councillor Caroline Anderson have objected to the proposals on the following grounds:
  - We have concerns about the entrances/exits, and although the revised plans
    have reopened the west entrance/exit on to Pool Road the way the garage is
    proposed to be laid out looks to be very chaotic with cars coming in and going out
    from all angles.
  - The proposed screening at the northern end of the garage footprint does not look sufficient in order to screen the view of the garage for the residents facing it from Pool Road.
  - The increased height of the canopy in terms of visual amenity would appear to be incompatible with both the conservation area and the view generally of the River Wharfe area from Pool Road
  - The planned illuminated signage is out of character with the area, impedes visual amenity and is not in keeping with the conservation area.
  - The revised plans show an increase in parking bays for the shop from 3 to 7
    which is of concern as the original plans showed only 3. With cars coming and
    going out of all entrances plus the increase in the number of pumps, 4 car park
    spaces where reversing out will be the only option, and another 3 spaces right
    next to the east entrance/exit for Pool Road it is a potentially dangerous situation.
  - We have concerns around what will be a much larger garage with more parking being visited by more vehicles and the already dangerous entrance and exit from and on to Main Street. This has the capacity to increase queuing from Main Street, both coming from Pool village and from Harrogate whilst cars wait to turn into the garage. There are also two nearby Give Way entrance/exits from Main Street and next to Pool Bridge which also increases the amount of traffic interacting with the garage area and the difficult traffic situation.
  - There is no facility at all for pedestrians at this "triangular" piece of land and anyone trying to cross the road to get to the children's play area has no way of doing so and if crossing from Pool Road or the Pool Road/Main Street junction

you have to check four different traffic flows and then the garage traffic on top of that.

- 6.3 Pool Parish Council have objected to the scheme on the following grounds:
  - Road traffic safety, congestion and forecourt safety;
  - Excessive signage and illumination
  - Excessive opening hours
  - Potential threat to the village shop and post office caused by the proposed increase in shop size.
- 6.4 At the time of writing a total of 20 representations in objection have been received, 13 of which refer to the plans as originally submitted and six of which refer to the revised plans. Five of the latter representations have been submitted by residents who also objected to the originally submitted scheme.
- 6.5 The principal points of objection can be summarised as concerns relating to:
  - The potential effect upon highway safety caused by the reorganised vehicle accesses to the site and/or by the perceived increase in vehicle traffic that the proposals would cause;
  - Negative impact upon the street scene and/or character of the Pool Conservation Area caused by the unsympathetic nature of the alterations;
  - Loss of residential amenity caused by the intrusive nature of the signage and/or signage illumination, and by excessive opening hours;
  - Potential impact upon the viability of existing facilities such as the village shop and post office caused by the proposed enlarged forecourt shop.
- 6.6 Two representations in support have been received, which can be summarised as:
  - The expanded shop and forecourt facilities would enhance local provision and would not affect existing local shops.

## 7. CONSULTATIONS RESPONSES:

The following consultation responses have been received:

Highways – no objections subject to conditions regarding a parking and servicing management plan

Flood Risk Management – no objection subject to a condition regarding surface water drainage

Contaminated Land Team – no objection subject to conditions regarding unexpected contamination and importation of soil

Local Plans/Policy – no objection on retail policy grounds

#### 8. PLANNING POLICIES:

- 8.1 As required by Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 this application has to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The development plan currently comprises the adopted Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2014), those policies saved from the Leeds Unitary Development Plan (Review 2006) (UDP) and the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan. Relevant supplementary planning guidance and documents and any guidance contained in the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) represent material considerations.
- 8.2 Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that in the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area of any functions under the Planning Acts, that special attention shall be had to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.

## **Local Planning Policies**

8.3 The following policies contained within the Core Strategy are considered to be of relevance to this development proposal:

P10 – Design

P11 – Conservation

P12 – Landscape

T2 – accessibility requirements

P3 – designated local centres

P4 – small scale convenience stores

8.4 The most relevant saved policies from the Leeds Unitary Development Plan are outlined below:

GP5: Proposals should resolve detailed planning considerations.

N19: Conservation areas new buildings

BD5: new buildings should be designed with consideration given to both their own amenity and that of their surroundings including usable space, privacy and daylight

BC7: Development in conservation areas

LD1: Landscaping scheme

BD8: signage schemes must relate to the street scene

BD9: projecting and illuminated signs in conservation areas

## National Planning Policy

8.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system. The National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

The following paragraphs from the NPPF are considered to be of particular relevance:

Paragraph 14 – Presumption in favour of sustainable development

Paragraph 17 – Twelve planning principles

Paragraph 56 - Good design

Paragraph 61 – Securing high quality design

Paragraph 64 – Poor design

Paragraph 126 - heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource

Paragraph 131 - the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets

#### 9. MAIN ISSUES:

- 1. Impact on the street scene and character of the Pool Conservation Area
- 2. Impact upon highway safety
- 3. Impact upon residential amenity
- 4. Impact of the advertisements on amenity and public safety
- 5. Impact upon existing retail facilities

#### 10. APPRAISAL:

10.1 This application seeks to refurbish an existing facility. As identified above, the site has operated as a petrol filling station since at least the late 1970's. The facility in its current form seems to date from the late 1990's. The principal building on the site is the forecourt shop located to the approximate centre of the site, and the canopy which covers the refuelling forecourt to the front of this. In addition there is a car wash structure close to the northern boundary with Pool Road.

## Impact upon the street scene and character of the Pool Conservation Area

- 10.2 The proposal seeks to clear the existing site and to redevelop the facility with an enlarged shop. This would be set to the northern side of the site, with the canopy of refuelling forecourt located approximately centrally. The canopy would be similar in appearance to the existing one although it would be longer approximately 37.5m as opposed to 25m in length now, and slightly higher clearance of 5m is shown whereas at the moment the equivalent figure is 4.5m.
- 10.3 The proposed forecourt shop would be a flat roofed single storey structure clad in grey cladding panels, with glazing to the front elevation. Additionally seven parking spaces would be sited around the shop, and landscaping is shown to the corners of the site.
- 10.4 While a modern petrol filling station is not sympathetic to the special character of a conservation area, it must be acknowledged that this is an established site for such a use, and that the proposal represents a relatively modest refurbishment of an existing use. The application does of course represent an opportunity to refresh a development that appears a little dated, and would remove entirely from the site the car wash. Some small modifications to soften the appearance of the site in long range views, such as a softer colour scheme and the addition of planting, have been incorporated into the revised scheme. The applicant has agreed to develop a more detailed landscaping scheme, and in this regard it is proposed that this could be addressed via an appropriately worded condition.

10.5 On balance it is considered that the proposals represent a relatively modest redevelopment of the site which would successfully sustain the current character of the street scene and of this part of the Pool Conservation Area.

## Impact upon highway safety

- 10.6 The revised proposal would retain the four vehicular access points to the site, which would offer flexibility for access and egress to the site. The plan also shows seven car parking spaces, and cycle parking, which would accord with the parking SPD. Additionally a safe pedestrian route to the shop which keeps pedestrians away from the forecourt has also been identified.
- 10.7 The village of Pool experiences high levels of vehicular traffic on the local road network, much of which is through traffic. However the proposal to refurbish this site is not considered likely to cause an increase in such traffic, nor would it increase the amount of vehicles accessing the site. The proposal does not represent a significant increase in the size or capacity of either the petrol forecourt or forecourt shop and overall therefore it is not considered to be an intensification of use of the site. In this regard the proposed access and vehicle circulation arrangements are considered acceptable and are not considered to cause a loss of highway safety.

## Impact upon residential amenity

10.8 For reasons identified in paragraph 10.7 the proposal is not considered to represent a material intensification of use of the site, and therefore it is not considered that it would cause a loss of amenity for nearby residents by virtue of comings and goings of visitors. The signage scheme would replace the existing signage in respect of the forecourt shop and canopy, but would retain the existing totem sign and floodlighting. The hours of illumination of the signage and floodlighting is presently limited by condition, and the current proposals would be subject to the same condition. The nearest residential properties are located approximately 30 metres to the south. In view of the above on balance the proposals are not considered harmful to residential amenity.

## Impact of the advertisements upon amenity and public safety

- Applications made under the Control of Advertisements Regulations must be considered against two issues only the interests of amenity and public safety. Although not strictly defined, this is usually taken to mean the impact upon visual amenity, and upon traffic and highway safety.
- 10.10 The signage scheme proposed is similar to that existing, principally comprising an illuminated fascia sign to the shop and an illuminated signage scheme to the canopy. The extent of illumination would be limited. In respect of the shop fascia only the logo would be illuminated, and in respect of the canopy, only the logo's and red bar, with the latter shining back onto the fascia rather than externally.
- 10.11 The most recent approval for a signage scheme, referred to in paragraph 4.2 above, included a condition limiting hours of lighting 07:00 22:00 Monday to Saturday, and 08:00 22:00 on Sundays. The applicant has agreed to accept a condition on any consent with the same limitations.

10.12 On balance the signage scheme is considered appropriate and proportionate to the requirements of the site. It is considered that it would adequately sustain the current character of the street scene and would not cause a loss of visual or residential amenity. Nor is it considered that it would cause a loss of highway safety.

## Impact upon existing retail facilities

- 10.13 The proposal includes an increase in the gross floorspace of the proposed forecourt shop, from approximately 100 square metres to approximately 175 square metres. There is no objection to this proposed increase on impact grounds. Being less than 200 square metres the scheme is too small to require a Retail Impact Assessment, and Policy P4 of the Core Strategy which permits small scale convenience stores would be broadly supportive of the proposal. Additionally the small amount of services in Pool don't amount to a local or neighbourhood centre and therefore do not benefit from protection under Policy P3. While concern regarding the potential impact upon the local post office is understandable, as it is an out of centre post office it does not benefit from any protection under national retail policy.
- 10.14 Overall it is considered that the proposal would not cause material harm to any interests of acknowledged importance which would outweigh the presumption in favour of development.

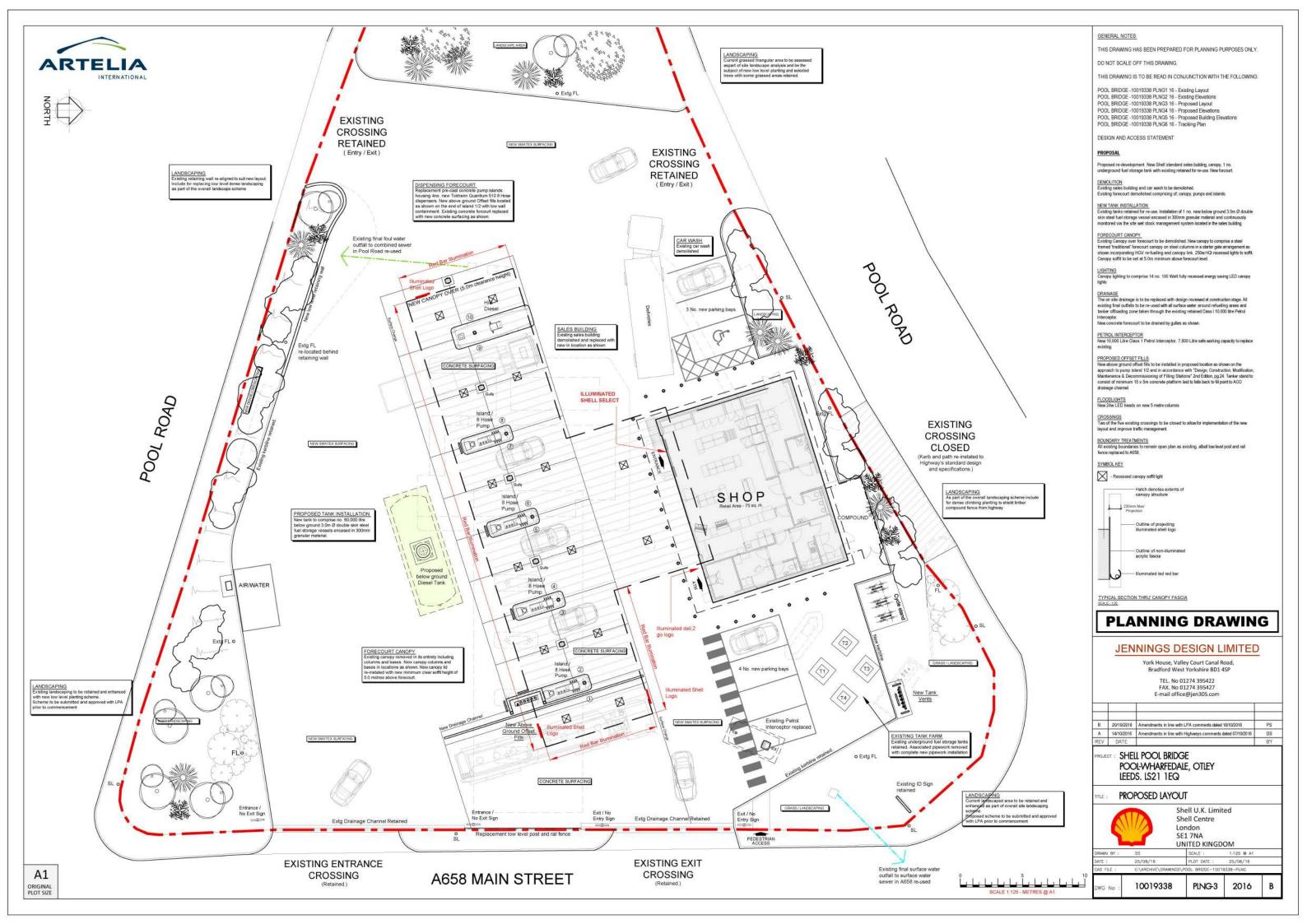
## 11.0 CONCLUSION

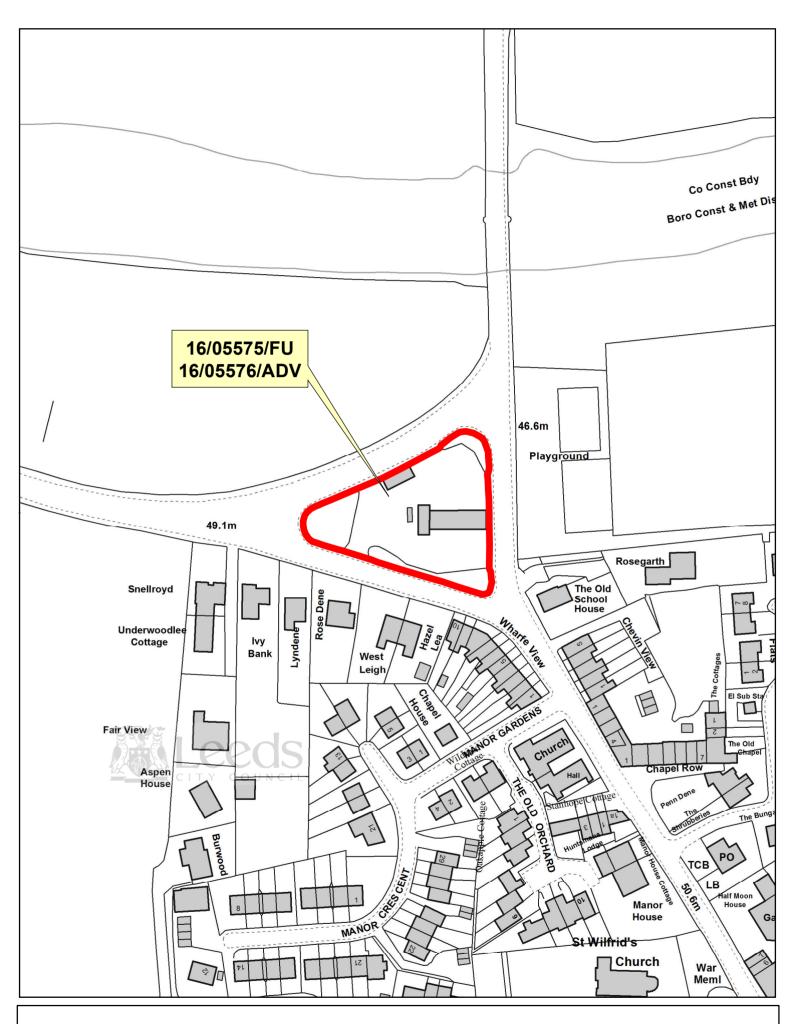
11.1 When considered against local and national planning policy the proposal is considered acceptable.

## **Background Papers:**

Application files: 16/04153/FU

Certificate of Ownership: Signed by the applicant.





# **SOUTH AND WEST PLANS PANEL**

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**SCALE: 1/1500** 

