

Weidenhammer UK Ltd



About the Company

Packaging company Weidenhammer is Europe's biggest producer of composite cans and drums, plastic containers and luxury tubes for well-known brands across the consumer goods sector. Customers include Unilever, Cadbury, Nestle, United Biscuits and Procter & Gamble.

From its headquarters in Hockenheim, Germany, the family-owned company operates 12 production sites in Europe and North America, including one in Bradford. Weidenhammer first became involved in Bradford via a joint venture with Chesapeake (a USA based company who had purchased the former Field Group packaging business, which had been based in the city since 1851).

In Dec 2008, the venture became 100% owned by Weidenhammer UK and it currently operates on a shared manufacturing site in Lidget Green with Chesapeake.

How has Bradford Council helped?

To support major growth plans aimed at increasing Weidenhammer UK's annual turnover from £8m to £15m, the company drew up plans to relocate to a purpose-built, 100,000 sq ft factory.

The company preferred to stay in Bradford but was also seriously considering moving elsewhere within the M62 corridor if the right site could be found.

Invest in Bradford organised meetings between Weidenhammer Chief Executive Ralf Weidenhammer and UK Managing Director Mike Ridgway and senior Bradford Council planners and directors to discuss the company's plans and identify what they required in a site.



Key Facts

Turnover: £8m

Local jobs: 50

Location: Bradford

weidenhammer.co.uk

A huge search began, with 30 sites considered over 18 months, and further meetings were held to emphasise the importance Bradford Council placed on keeping Weidenhammer in the district.



Results

Weidenhammer UK has now received planning permission to build its new production site on a five-acre plot in Buttershaw, Bradford, and is now committed to staying within the district.

The outcome has safeguarded more than 30 full-time and 20 part-time jobs and is likely to lead to the creation of more employment as the company continues to grow. It will also see a derelict site being redeveloped and replaced by a thriving new industrial unit with the most modern composite can plant in the UK and one of the most advanced in Europe.

Mike Ridgway, who is now retiring after 42 years working at Field and Weidenhammer, said: "It was always our intention to remain within Bradford, as this is where the company's roots lie. But if we were unable to find the right site we would have no choice but to move.

"The support we received from Invest in Bradford was key to both finding an appropriate site and making it clear just how much Weidenhammer was valued by the district.

"It is reassuring to know that the manufacturing sector is being supported so well and that Bradford will be making Weidenhammer products used by well known branded companies around the world for years to come."

For more information visit: www.investinbradford.com

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Key Facts

Jobs safeguarded: 50

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