



Wednesday 9 April 2025

Dear neighbour,

Following more than a year of feasibility, due diligence, and close engagement with local and national stakeholders, as well as members of the local surrounding communities, **Universal Destinations & Experiences, a unit of Comcast NBCUniversal, announced today it intends to build and operate the company's first-ever Universal branded theme park and resort in the United Kingdom, located here in Bedford, pending planning consent approvals.**

The proposed plans include an entertainment resort complex with a world-class theme park with several themed lands featuring Universal's distinct brand of immersive storytelling, thrilling rides, innovative attractions and exciting entertainment. Initial resort plans also feature a 500-room hotel and a retail, dining and entertainment complex. It will be the first Universal-branded theme park in the UK and Europe.

This development will have a transformative impact on Bedford and the UK economy. It will be a major contributor to the creative arts and tourism industries, generating nearly **£50 billion of economic benefit for the UK and creating thousands of new, high-quality jobs**. At opening, the theme park would be one of the largest employers in the region, with approximately **80% of employees expected to come from Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes**, with many more communities benefiting from apprenticeships, training and educational opportunities.

The project, with strong support from the national and local Government, National Highways and Network Rail, will also help to unlock several longstanding local transportation upgrades. This includes the expanded construction of Wixams railway station, direct slip roads from the A421 to accommodate road traffic, and an upgraded Manor Road, in addition to improvements to the Active Travel Network.

The response to the project has been very positive – with thousands of local residents participating in our engagement period last year and 92% expressing their support.

Our next steps:

A planning proposal will be submitted to Government in the months ahead with a projected construction start date in 2026, subject to the relevant planning approval. Additional news will be shared on the project's website universalukproject.co.uk, and local residents will be kept abreast of the status of the project's planning proposal.

On behalf of the company, we sincerely appreciate the widespread support and enthusiasm for this project, and we look forward to the next steps in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Universal Destinations & Experiences

UNIVERSAL DESTINATIONS & EXPERIENCES FIRST THEME PARK AND RESORT ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX IN EUROPE

Delivering transformational economic benefit for Bedford, the surrounding region and wider UK.



£50bn
of direct and indirect
economic benefit
for the UK



Major boost to local and
UK tourism, attracting
millions of new visitors



Bolstering the UK's creative
industries, delivering the
first Universal theme
park in Europe



Investing billions of pounds
and unlocking wider
investment in the UK



Universal would
become one of the
largest employers
in the region



Approx. **80%**
of employees to come
from Bedfordshire and
the surrounding areas



20,000
jobs projected during
construction with 5,000+
on site at the peak



8,000
new jobs generated
once operational



Transformative
regional impact,
facilitating several
infrastructure upgrades



Expanded Wixams
station



New direct slip roads
from the A421 and local
road improvements



Play an active role in
our communities with
a proven track record
of local partnerships



To find out more, visit:
universalukproject.co.uk

