



Tuesday 16 December 2025

Proposed Universal Theme Park and Resort Granted Planning Permission, Representing Another Important Step in Development Process

Key Project Highlights

- **Bedford will become home to the first Universal-branded theme park and resort in the United Kingdom and Europe.**
- **Universal's theme park and resort will be a major boost to the tourism and creative industries as well as the UK economy overall, with an estimated £50bn of direct and indirect economic benefit.**
- **Universal is poised to become one of the region's largest employers, creating 20,000 construction jobs and 8,000 permanent positions once operational, with approximately 80% of all jobs going to local workers.**
- **The project will help deliver key transportation upgrades, including an expanded Wixams railway station and new direct slip roads from the A421.**

Today, I can share an important update on our plans to bring a new entertainment resort complex featuring a world-class theme park to Bedford. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has approved our request for planning permission to be granted by way of making a Special Development Order (SDO) and I would like to extend my thanks to them.

While there are still further steps to complete, including a statutory parliamentary review period, this decision represents another important milestone for the project. On behalf of the company, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the continued engagement from Bedford and the various communities surrounding our site, as well as the many other national and local stakeholders who have provided feedback and expressed such enthusiasm on the transformative nature of our project.

In the months ahead, we are committed to sharing progress as well as what to expect including job opportunities and how local businesses and suppliers can potentially work with us. The interest and support we've already seen from both local companies and residents has been incredibly encouraging.

In the meantime, please do continue to visit **universalukproject.co.uk** for relevant updates.

Sincerely,

Page Thompson
**President of New Ventures,
Universal Destinations & Experiences**