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**BROADCAST TRANSCRIPT**

MAJOR LEISURE DEVELOPMENT  
Programme : LIVE AT 17:30  
Station : BBC RADIO SHEFFIELD  
Date : 11/05/06  
Time : 17:44

**MICK LUNNEY: Presenter:**

First, though, controversial plans to build a massive leisure development covering the size of 300 football pitches - not under water, I assure you - at Rother Valley Country Park, moved a step closer to becoming reality today. Council planners in Rotherham have said yes to the "Yes" project.

Well, Steven Lewis is from the developers, that's Yorkshire Entertainment Sensation. What exactly do you want to build at Rother Valley?

**STEVEN LEWIS: Yorkshire Entertainment Sensation:**

Well it will be Europe's first fully-enclosed undercover multi-use sports facility. It will feature the largest extreme sports facility in Europe, coupled with a major indoor entertainment facility and a resort, spa, hotel, conference and convention facility all linked together with your eclectic mix of lifestyle retailing, restaurants, bars, and street entertainment. So it will be a unique facility.

**MICK LUNNEY:**

Steve, this sounds like a whopper...

**STEVEN LEWIS:**

It is...

**MICK LUNNEY:**

...and there are considerable concerns about the environment. What can you say to allay those concerns and fears?

**STEVEN LEWIS:**

I've heard that comment before, but, you know, I've lived with this scheme for three years. This was promoted as a development opportunity by the government agency Yorkshire

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Forward and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. This wasn't a case of us coming along and picking this site. We won it in competition against other major international developers.

In terms of the environment, this is a former coalfield site that has been remediated, and the landscaping is 'immature', and that is a word that's been used by Rotherham's own ecologist. What we're planning to do is take a small part of the site and put a scheme on that benefits the entire south Yorkshire region, but by doing that allows us to reinvest in the Rother Valley Country Park and integrate the balance of this site into the Rother Valley Country Park, thereby providing a much larger facility and making it far more accessible than it currently is, so that we are actually improving the status quo.

**ANNA MCKELLOGG: Presenter:**

There's always been talk, hasn't there, along the way of the promise of thousands of jobs, Steve...

**STEVEN LEWIS:**

Correct. Correct.

**ANNA MCKELLOGG:**

...just talk us through that?

**STEVEN LEWIS:**

Well, during the construction period there will be in excess of 2,000 jobs, but most importantly there will be over 2,700 jobs once the scheme is up and running.

**MICK LUNNEY:**

It's a big old project, isn't it, eh? It's going to take a little while – how long, and when do you get cracking?

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**STEVEN LEWIS:**

Well, that's the 64,000-dollar question. We...having received resolution to grant this morning, it does have to be referred to the Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside. If we get the white smoke from the papal chamber, as they say, then it will probably take about four to six months before we can get a detailed application in, and then once that's approved it will take about another three months to start on site. So hopefully within 12 months we shall be able to start on site, then it will be about a two-and- a-half-year build project, so, opening late 2009.

**ANNA MCKELLOGG:**

Steve Lewis from Yorkshire Entertainment Sensation. They're the developers, the people who want to build a massive leisure development at Rother Valley Country Park.

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