

Client: Oak Holdings plc
Source: Sheffield Weekly Gazette
Date: 29 September 2005
Page: 2
Circulation: 121807
Area(cm²): 315

Amended plans for complex

Leisure scheme takes shape

DEVELOPERS have submitted an amended planning application for a proposed £300 million leisure complex in South Yorkshire.

The Yes! project on a former pit site between Sheffield and Rotherham is being billed as the largest undercover leisure scheme in Europe.

The leisure, sports and entertainment project adjacent to Rother Valley country park was helped last month when Sheffield Council removed its objection.

Developers Oak Holdings plc says the amendments take into account the requirements of operators such as Sony and Venue Solutions who are committed to the project.

Steve Lewis, chief executive of Oak Holdings, says: "The scheme has evolved following extensive consultation.

"The increased interest particularly in the sporting and daytime leisure aspects of the project, complements the urban renaissance programme throughout South Yorkshire and means the project is destined to become a comprehensive world-class destination.

"We are delighted that Sheffield has given the project its full support, reflecting the importance of the

scheme to the entire South Yorkshire region.

"Support for the project from many quarters means that we now look forward to securing an early consent.

"Yes! will not only greatly improve the tourism potential of South Yorkshire but will also create 2,700 sustainable jobs."

Adam Wilkinson of Rotherham Council, said: "We welcome the revised proposal which have a greater emphasis on sport and leisure.

"Rother Valley country park offers a unique facility of regional and national significance to showcase state-of-the-art developments ranging from extreme sporting facilities through to world leading interactive technologies.

"The scheme will enhance the South Yorkshire tourism drive and indeed that of the North of England.

"Additionally it will provide significant economic benefit to this region.

"We are extremely pleased the Yorkshire Forward and Sheffield City Council now fully support the proposals."

The complex is expected to include one of the largest extreme sports centres in the UK.