



HIGHBURY PLANNING
CONSULTANTS

Testimonials

Opportunity Peterborough



Chris Stratford BA (Hons), FRTPI
Director
Highbury Planning Consultants Limited
75 Kelvin Road
Islington
London N5 2PL

14th September 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Testimonial for Chris Stratford

This testimonial is offered for Chris Stratford solely for work pertaining to the provision of the Peterborough Integrated Growth Study (completed February 2008).

The Integrated Growth Study was an initiative led by Opportunity Peterborough (Urban Regeneration Company) to establish a sustainable approach to major growth in Peterborough. RSS targets for Peterborough 2001-2021 were 25,000 homes and 20,000 jobs, likely to result in a population increase of +40,000 (c25%). There were clearly major implications (benefits as well as impacts) for the city, but prior to the IGS these were not fully understood, and indeed the pattern for that growth, in spatial terms was not established. The intention behind the IGS was to establish a pattern for spatial growth which delivered economic, environmental and social sustainability: a signature study for Peterborough which also measured the impacts of that growth in all of those spheres, which was fully justified and demonstrated and based on robust research. The IGS has subsequently been acknowledged by central government officials as being an exemplary approach and study, unique to Peterborough.

Chris' role was to lead the 20-person team from Arup which included planners, economists, urban designers, transport consultants, infrastructure engineers and environmental sustainability specialists. Input from all of these experts needed to be honed and co-ordinated to ensure contributions were timely and in accordance with the original remit of the project.

The commission was extremely challenging, especially with regard to the 8 month timetable for delivery. The project involved the assessment and collation of over 400 documents, the establishment of 35 GIS data sets, and the modelling of proposed scenarios against an integrated resource management model together with sectoral



Testimonials

Opportunity Peterborough continued



option strategies, extensive stakeholder and public consultation and a comprehensive delivery strategy. Several elements of the method were groundbreaking and it was all considered robust and sound as it strongly supported the LDF process.

The achievement of this project to a level where it has received the recognition it has at Governmental and regional levels and with the RTPI, is a reflection of Chris' abilities to galvanise and lead a multidisciplinary team as well as bring his own skills to bear on a complex project.

Steve Bowyer
Director of Strategic Growth
Opportunity Peterborough



Testimonials

Aylesbury Vale Advantage

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN



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28th September 2009

Testimonial for Chris Stratford

It has been a great pleasure to work with Chris. His initial response to our brief was very impressive and thorough. A challenging and delicate work programme was handled successfully.

This testimonial is offered for Chris Stratford for work on the provision of the Aylesbury Town Centre Draft Masterplan (completed May 2009).

The Draft Masterplan was an initiative led by Aylesbury Vale Advantage (Growth Area Local Delivery Vehicle), with partners, to establish a realistic and deliverable Masterplan for the town centre, which was to build on the Vision Framework prepared in 2006. The scope involved reviewing existing documents and development proposals and other initiatives to develop a robust Masterplan and a range of supporting strategies for transport, culture, public realm and landscape, supported by an Implementation Plan detailing how it would be implemented by public and private sector, especially accounting for the current economic climate. The work was an input into Aylesbury Vale District Council's Core Strategy and the Vision work for the Masterplan became the Town Centre chapter.

Chris' role was to lead the 10-person team from Arup, which included planners, urban designers, transport consultants, infrastructure engineers and cultural strategy and delivery/funding specialists. Input from all of these experts needed to be honed and co-ordinated to ensure contributions were timely and in accordance with the original remit of the project.

The commission, from October 2008 until May 2009, was extremely challenging, especially with regard to the 8 month timetable for delivery. The project involved the assessment and collation of over 100 documents, the development of an Issues and Opportunities Report (the supporting evidence), the production of separate but coordinated strategies for transport, culture, public realm and landscape, extensive stakeholder consultation and a comprehensive delivery strategy. It was all considered robust and sound and it strongly supported the Council's LDF process.

The achievement of this project to a level where it has received the recognition it has at a local level by all stakeholders, is a reflection of Chris' abilities to galvanise and lead a multi-disciplinary team as well as bring his own skills to bear on a complex project. I, personally, enjoyed working with him and he most certainly delivered a high quality product within an agreed programme and fully supported the client group's requirements.



Testimonials

Aylesbury Vale Advantage continued

Furthermore, we recently tendered for work to convert this Draft Masterplan to a Final Masterplan and gain approval from our Board and both AVDC and BCC over a six month period. Chris won this tender because of his robust method, quality and competitiveness of his tender and the regard in which he is held locally, with a resounding support to work with him further.

I am looking forward to working with Chris on the next and most demanding phase of work which will transform our planning into action.

Richard Harrington
Managing Director
Aylesbury Vale Advantage



Testimonials

BSkyB



Chris Stratford BA (Hons), FRTPI
Director
Highbury Planning Consultants Limited
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Islington
London N5 2PL

September 2009

Dear Chris,

Congratulations on forming your company, I am confident that you will enjoy outstanding success as you use the considerable skills and experience you have amassed over the years. I truly enjoyed working with you on BSkyB's project during 2005 and 2006 and that the relationship has grown into a friendship over that period. Great to also hear that our endorsement helped you win the RTPI Consultancy of the Year Award 2007 with your earlier employer.

Following your involvement with urban designers in developing our campus masterplan, you led the team that prepared our headquarters Outline Planning application and subsequently our first major building application, Harlequin 1 (including all supporting documentation). You gained us the necessary consents within 18 months, including all the pre-application negotiations and the subsequent 106 negotiations. In my view, your relationship with the officers was instrumental in assisting the process. Glad to see that you managed to retain your humour during the constant peer technical reviews by our other consultants and your advice prevailed.

In conclusion, I would say that your personality personifies the definition of a 'good consultant' – paying close attention to detail, providing quality work, very experienced, personable, tough when necessary and totally focussed on the client's needs and adding value at every opportunity.

Given the current business environment I am sure your future clients will benefit greatly from the services you offer and their competitive nature. I will highly recommend you and your company, Highbury Planning Consultants, to any potential clients that may seek our opinion in the future.

Clearly if any further opportunities arise on the next stages of our masterplan development, we will be in contact at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Mooney
Group Head of Property and Services
BSkyB Limited