

Mark Harris

MRTPI

Partner, Planning

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A town planner with a nearly two decades of experience.

Mark's knowledge of sites, settlements and personalities in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area is vast, having lived and worked in the area throughout his professional career.

His almost two decades of experience has seen him involved with a wide variety of projects across the UK ranging from the successful promotion of strategic employment and housing sites for allocation in local and neighbourhood plans, through to several appeal wins for residential development. Adding value for clients, in the first appeal win of his career, Mark advised a client who initially purchased a site to build a single dream home. After exploring all options, he put forward an outline scheme for 24 dwellings, which was ultimately granted consent.

Mark's has genuine affection for the work he is involved with. Being able to see the built environment and how original concepts are delivered is of great importance to him, as is the chance to make a lasting difference to the areas he works in.

Mark has a particular focus on opportunities in the Milton Keynes area. Following the recent RTPI award win for Campbell Wharf, a project Mark continues to work on, he is now engaged on the next phase of the wider Campbell Park development, a flagship site in Central Milton Keynes. Mark continues to advise on both greenfield and brownfield redevelopment opportunities in Milton Keynes and the surrounding authorities, but also advises clients across the country with current sites in locations including Yorkshire and Southampton

Key relevant project experience

Westminster House, Milton Keynes – UV Group

Mark advised UV Group on the potential redevelopment of an aging office building in Central Milton Keynes. Mark advised on a strategy which first secured residential use of the building via the prior approval process and then sought an uplift in value through the partial redevelopment and extension of the building to deliver an increased number of units on the site.

Using knowledge and experience of the area, Mark was able to advise on the technical issues that would need to be considered, including the heritage status of the building, and ensured that the final proposal addressed all of the key matters the Local Planning Authority would likely pick up in considering the proposal to smooth the application process.

Brownfield redevelopment opportunities – various locations – Private client

After a private investor client purchased a portfolio of brownfield sites across the county, Mark worked closely with them to understand the development potential of each site and devise a strategy to release value from the most developable sites.

By first identifying those sites which were most likely to have development potential and devising appropriate schemes with the project architects, Mark was able to assist the client in expediting consent for several residential developments.

Strategic Land Allocation, Milton Keynes – Hampton Brook

Advising from the outset of the opportunity being identified, Mark secured the allocation of a 57ha site for employment use via the Milton Keynes Local Plan. Work included advising on the establishment of the project team, engaging with the Local Planning Authority and preparing representations promoting the suitability of the site for development.