



*I still feel a sense of outrage if I see someone
being pushed around unfairly*

Howard Sharp reported in
The Sunday Times, 1969

Howard Sharp FRICS 1908 - 2000

Illustrative perspective created for a proposed extension to a village in Cambridgeshire



THE PRACTICE

Howard Sharp founded the practice in 1935. The advocacy side of the practice soon developed and many clients over the years have appreciated the involvement of the partners from initial assessment to the grant of consent. Robert Wickham joined the firm in the late 1960s and has widened the sphere of activities to reflect interests in issues of politics and land economy.

Throughout advocacy has remained central to our work. All the partners are both Chartered Surveyors and Chartered Town Planners. This overall service and our approach to the particular problem sets us apart from most other consultancies and has been the key to our record of success over the years.

The resolution of planning constraints often involves an intricate web of legal, administrative, valuation and political issues. Since the 1930s, this practice has been involved in matters well beyond land use planning. Our clients include major charities, commercial and residential companies as well as private families and individuals such as: many of the Dioceses of the Church of England, Cancer Research UK; St. Modwen Plc; Q8 Petroleum Plc.

THE PARTNERS

Robert Wickham
MA(Cantab) MPhil(TP) FRICS MRTPI

A Trevelyan Scholar at Cambridge University and prizeman of the RICS, he has had over 30 years professional experience in planning and compensation including local government service and lecturing. He specialises in the presentation of cases in the role as advocate at planning and associated inquiries. His main interests include strategic analysis for medium and long term site identification purposes, ecclesiastical matters, housing policy, the politics and history of planning, comparative compensation and planning systems and the theory of land ownership.

Jacqueline Andrews
BSc MRICS MRTPI

Awarded the Estate Management prize with commendation in 1987, she has been with the practice since 1982. She has extensive experience in relation to planning and development matters throughout the UK with particular emphasis on ecclesiastical work, petrol filling station proposals, development plan monitoring, detailed site proposals, preparation and submission of planning applications, Conservation Area and Listed Building issues, enforcement and Lawful Development Certificate matters. In addition she acts as expert witness at public inquiries and represents clients at informal hearings.

Jonathan Harbottle
BSc MA(TP) MRICS MRTPI

Before joining the practice in 1994 he worked in local government, a planning department of a large planning law firm and for a development company. His particular interests include the formulation and application of land search techniques for new residential and commercial opportunities. He also advises and gives evidence on land supply and housing market studies, urban capacity analysis and the promotion of mixed use proposals, including retail and entertainment uses, particularly in London.

THE CONSULTANTS

Jeremy Emmerson
BA Dip Arch RIBA

With a first class degree in Architecture, he worked on some noteworthy schemes with several major architectural practices in London. Since joining as a consultant in 2002, he has delivered successful schemes both on application and appeal. He was rewarded a national House Design Award for the Buckingham Riverside scheme in 2008.

Roger Molyneux
RIBA

A Chartered Architect with 20 years professional experience both in the United Kingdom and in over 40 countries worldwide including Her Majesty's Cultural and Diplomatic Estate, he has worked with the practice on a wide range of land uses, in particular sensitive ecclesiastical, residential, social and community situations. His particular interest is in high quality design in the built environment.

Michael Maan
BA Dip UD MRTPI

Specializing in urban design and enforcement, Michael Maan joined the practice in 2001 from a local government background. Much of his work and contacts are in London and the South East.



The adoption of a less prescriptive approach to design has achieved higher densities and a more informal layout

Negotiated Consents

Most of the applications we deal with can be negotiated without appeal. We regularly settle applications by informal discussions with officers and indeed on major or controversial schemes may be involved with political members of the authority. We have for many years advised national organisations on the presentation and communication of proposals which involves careful research to identify local concerns; establishing supporters and retaining their interest; briefing councillors, senior Civil Servants and even Parliamentary lobbying as necessary.

Facing a Planning Inquiry

Since the foundation of the practice, planning advocacy has been a most important aspect of the service we provide. But the presentation of the case at inquiry is the culmination of much more. The issues and policy must be analysed and frequently experts retained on the wide range of issues raised. Within the practice we have the expertise to cover planning policy, highways and urban design. Outside the practice we have regular contacts with leading advisers on a wide range of subjects including issues as esoteric as microclimatology and as essential as waste disposal, drainage and noise.

Other methods of appeal

The public inquiry is only one method of appeal. Most appeals are conducted by written representations or by informal hearing. But the choice of procedure can be vital to the outcome. With years of experience, we can advise you on the practicalities and the pitfalls of the appeal process to ensure the best possible outcome.



Strategic Masterplan created for the promotion of a new mixed development in Staffordshire, providing employment, up to 900 homes and associated community facilities.

Planning Policy Review

You may need to influence the evolution of national or regional policy as expressed in Planning Policy Guidance notes and regional guidance. With the increased importance of development plans, many clients retain us to protect their interests through the structure plan and local plan review process and to gradually bring specific sites forward for development. Working closely with our consultants, strategic masterplans can be produced using the latest technical systems and graphics.

Strategic analysis

For those wishing to invest in new development opportunities, we can advise on the identification of short, medium and long term sites for development. We have a long tradition of serving the housebuilding industry, but our expertise also covers other commercial and retail uses.

Mixed use and Urban Renaissance

These factors are becoming ever more important in new projects, particularly in the towns and cities. A detailed appreciation is needed of the principles of land economics and the market, urban regeneration and urban design. Advice is given on interpreting relevant policies, issues of design and the mix of land uses within the scheme. Often this is all brought together in the form of a Development Brief for the site.



Sensitive mixed use redevelopment of Highbury Baptist Church, Islington, London providing modern community and worship facilities and new homes.

Enforcement

With our tradition of political analysis at local and national level, we regularly assist businesses and private individuals facing enforcement action by an authority. This includes the handling of all the negotiations and the appeal process where appropriate.

Compulsory Purchase or Blight

This is one of the most daunting prospects for a private individual or company. We are regularly representing clients in compensation cases and as occasion demands, taking them to the Lands Tribunal. Our approach to the case and practical knowledge of valuation and compensation principles often results in a financial settlement for the client substantially higher than originally offered by the acquiring authority.

Conservation and design

New developments in sensitive locations require careful handling and an appreciation of conservation and design principles. With the evolution of current urban policy, we are involved in renewal projects and the creation of high quality design solutions for urban areas.