

# ASSERSON PLANNING TEAM

## 2018 NEWSLETTER

**As we approach the end of 2018, we take a quick look back at some of this year's key moments for the Asserson Planning Team.**

### Project Highlights

- ❖ We were delighted to have been involved in exciting and prestigious projects in 2018. We successfully project managed the first three landmark private sector developments in the Old Oak and Park Royal Opportunity Area, which at £26 billion is the UK's largest regeneration and London's biggest opportunity area. We achieved planning consents on first attempt for all three schemes, which will provide around 500 residential units in buildings of up to 22 storeys, one of which will mark the "gateway" to the new London hub, which will be the only point in the UK where Crossrail meets High Speed 2. The complex section 106 agreements we negotiated will set the legal precedents for the entire Opportunity Area. Our work on these projects was shortlisted for Property Team of the Year 2018 at the British Legal Awards – the only planning team to be recognised.



- ❖ We were delighted in Spring 2018 to achieve two planning permissions for an innovative joint public-private-partnership venture in Leamington Spa town centre, providing 250 new residential units, new council offices and a 650-space town centre car park.
- ❖ 2018 also saw the team successfully represent Hasmore High School in their expansion development plans, marking the largest ever release of green belt land in London. Following the grant of permission in 2017, London Mayor Sadiq Khan overturned the Council's decision due to the sensitive nature of development on green-belt land. Our team successfully persuaded the Secretary of State to intervene and suspend the Mayor's decision.
- ❖ We are proud to have, this year, retained and built on our track record of delivering development solutions and obtaining permission for some of the most complex sites in London and the South East. This year we have continued to hold our title of having a 100% success rate of obtaining permission for judicial reviews and Section 288/289 challenges.



### Project Horizon

- ❖ Looking towards next year, we continue to work on the frontline of pioneering new schemes in London and beyond, including:
  - £500 million scheme creating a cluster of buildings in the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area, including a 40-storey tower.
  - A brand new town in Cambridgeshire of 3,500 dwellings and two schools covering a site of 270 hectares.
  - £200m mixed use scheme in the heart of the West End for remodelling of a listed building for a new 5 star hotel and cinema complex.
  - £1.5bn large scale housing-led regeneration project on the South Coast for up to 5,000 units.
  - The redevelopment of a 10,000sqm industrial estate in Glasgow.

## Awards and Recognition

- ❖ Finalists for Property Team of the Year at the British Legal Awards 2018.
- ❖ Our lead partner, Daniel Drukarz, has once again been recognized as a leading individual in Chambers UK, the country's foremost legal rankings. Chambers notes Daniel as *"extremely focused and an excellent communicator, with an ability to cut through stressful and complex issues and get to the matters of legal importance... very commercial and lovely to deal with."* The fantastic work of rising star partner Marianne Barker has also received further industry recognition as she enters this year's Chambers rankings as a Recognised Practitioner.
- ❖ Bernadette Hillman was named one of The Planner's Women of Influence 2018.



## Industry Knowledge & Innovation



- ❖ In 2018, we successfully removed a client's entire CIL liability on a site in Hounslow, a saving of almost £60,000. The CIL strategy, which is based on a detailed interpretation of the relevant regulations, will also apply to other developers, with potential savings on large schemes running into the millions. We aim to roll out this strategy to more of our clients in 2019.



- ❖ In November, our team joined forces with leading planning consultants Quod to host an industry seminar for property developers on the key changes in the updated National Planning Policy Framework and new draft London Plan, unravelling how these changes could affect their business. Below is a link to the [key takeaways](#).



- ❖ Associate Jessica Craske returned to her alma mater, Oxford University, as one of the legal practitioners who delivered the university's 2018 course on public planning inquiries.
- ❖ Striving to always break the mould and provide an innovative commercial service tailored to our clients business strategies, we have recently established a unique advisory board that brings together planning consultants, architects, and barristers, to provide clients with access to planning industry leaders.



## Growing Team

- ❖ It has been only seven years since former head of Pinsent Masons London planning team, Daniel Drukarz, ventured out of the City to set up a planning practice at Asserson. Since then we have become a leading planning boutique, known very much as a "disruptor" in the London planning world. The rapid rise of our practice is reflected in our growing team. In autumn of last year, Jessica Craske joined the team from leading London planning firm Berwin Leighton Paisner. This autumn, we welcomed to the fold Bernadette Hillman, previously Head of Planning London at Shakespeare Martineau, and current holder of the titles of Honorary Secretary and Solicitor to the Royal Town and Planning Institute.



## Press Coverage

- ❖ [Property Week](#) sought the opinion of partner Marianne Barker on Housing delivery and tall buildings in London.



- ❖ Senior Associate James Kon was asked to give his take on the current legal landscape for London's housing market to [The Planner](#).



- ❖ [Estates Gazette](#) reported on the planning consents we achieved in Old Oak Common.



- ❖ In May, our founding partner, Trevor Asserson, was named Lawyer of the Week in [The Times](#).

