

OUR INDUSTRY'S REACTION TO COVID-19

The last fourteen weeks have been an unprecedented time for everyone, with individuals, families and businesses' having to adapt quickly to the challenges of a global pandemic. For many in the property and construction sectors, this meant a rapid shift to fully remote working against a backdrop of uncertainty within the industry and wider economy.

Luckily, technology has sufficiently advanced to support this move and the whole of the eb7 team went to extraordinary lengths to maintain 'business as usual' whilst switching to home working. It has also been great to see the team pull together in facing these challenges whilst doing our part to control the spread of the virus in line with government guidance. eb7 pride ourselves on being problem solvers in order to deliver our projects on time, on budget and with an added measure of good humour thrown in to lift spirits during these difficult times.

The industry as a whole has had a remarkable response to Covid-19. Local authorities have continued to process planning applications, hosting remote pre-apps and virtual planning committees. Our clients are moving projects forward with innovative solutions for workshops and design team meetings. We have also been involved in a number of online public exhibitions and consultation events getting more virtual attendees than most of the events we attend in person.

Developers, consultants, architects, planners and local authorities have all pushed to keep property moving within the 'new normal'. This is a testament to the resilience of the industry and illustrates that the "show must go on". Many of our clients are pushing forward to maximise the planning potential of their portfolio and finding opportunities in distressed sites and the changing demands that will arise in a post-Covid market.

Internally, eb7 now have well-honed procedures to ensure that we maintain our service whilst the safety of our staff and clients is kept as our main priority.

Our technical analysis and visualisation departments have a particular tech focus, but have risen to the challenge admirably - developing new workflows for data handling whilst minimising disruption, maintaining output and continuing the highest standards of work.

Personally, I've found that communication is key in these uncertain times. Both myself, my fellow Directors and the rest of the team are keeping in constant contact with our clients to understand their needs and let them know we are on hand to assist with any projects (new or old) that need strategic daylight/sunlight and rights of light advice.

The resilience we have all shown through this pandemic means that we will not only weather the storm, but come through in a stronger position to tackle the further challenges ahead. In due course I look forward to returning to the buzzing office, working face to face in teams and socialising with clients and workmates; but until then, have great pride in what we have achieved in this short but life-changing period.

Our colleagues, clients and the industry as a whole can look back on the last fourteen weeks satisfied at how we have risen to these trials and difficult times. We remain eager to assist in all our specialist areas, so do stay in touch for expert advice, quotes for your projects or just to touch base and share our experiences of these strange times.

From myself and all at eb7, we hope that all of your friends, family, colleagues and client are safe and well.



Stephen Parker
Director
stephen.parker@eb7.co.uk