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CHARTERED SURVEYORS

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Dear Sir/Madam

ARK

I am a Partner of Montagu Evans LLP, which is a long established firm of Commercial Surveyors with offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London (West End + City).

We are broadly based providing advice across the full spectrum of the commercial property market, as well as advising on residential land/development. In our property dealings for clients, we have met with and used ARK now over 5+ years.

The Partners or ARK are Tom Walker and Brian Taylor, both of whom worked previously for another large Glasgow based firm of architects. It was through previous dealings with their previous employer that I met with Tom Walker. Both of us provided advice to NHS Lanarkshire over a period of years. In time, Tom and Brian left to set up ARK.

Subsequently, myself/Montagu Evans have had occasion to seek input from architects on behalf of clients, who have employed the services of ARK. There have been a number of instructions, which have related predominantly but not solely to residential development.

I have found ARK and the quality of service provided by both Tom and Brian to be very good. In turn, I was not surprised to see an increasing number of companies, including many of the larger housebuilders, employing ARK.

Personally, the bulk of the work undertaken for Montagu Evans and our clients has been master planning of sites. They do this very well, which has not always been the case with some of their competitors. It has led to further/repeat instructions through Montagu Evans and directly from our clients.

As a practice, we have tended not to act for housebuilders. However, I reaffirm that it was clear that an increasing number of housebuilders were employing ARK in respect of the preparation of detailed housing layouts and for applications for detailed planning consent. ARK will have secured these instructions by virtue of the quality of their work. In addition, they are pragmatic and understand the market.

Currently, we have a client seeking to instruct ARK in respect of a detailed/reserved matters planning application for a mixed use development of some 475 houses, small supermarket and business park. This is a substantial project and hugely detailed in terms of content.

On commercial property, ARK worked alongside Montagu Evans, acting for St Mirren FC, in obtaining consent for a supermarket (80,000 sq ft) in Paisley. This was again detailed work over a lengthy period. Currently, ARK are providing architectural input in respect of another proposed supermarket.

In conclusion, I hesitate to recommend professionals unless they are good. Certainly, I have found ARK to be excellent and would recommend both Tom and Brian to existing and new clients.

Yours faithfully



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