

# ALL THINGS MUST PASS

---

It seems like yesterday but back in 2004 two fresh faced, albeit one slightly less so, colleagues talked about setting up a new transport planning consultancy. Many hours and meetings in various hostelrys later, some very cool business names had been chosen which all too soon were binned as someone had got there first or the internet domain name was taken.

In April 2005, I founded i-Transport LLP with Mark Gimingham, and alongside Polly my wife as our Finance Manager. From the outset, our mission was to solve clients' development planning problems and provide good quality, independent advice while hopefully retaining a sense of humour and enjoying ourselves.

We were and still are, fiercely independent, fiercely private sector focussed and have sought throughout to recognise, develop and reward talent.



Initially based out of my study at home and kitted out with a car bought off eBay, the practice has grown over the last 19 years to comprise over 50 employees, nine equity Partners and five offices located across the UK providing national coverage (and 'overseas' when including our Isle of Man work).

Along the way, we've had much fun and some seriousness, including the 2008 recession, Covid and the current uncertain economic conditions. However, all things must pass, and it is now time for me to retire which I will be doing from the end of March 2024.





## Thank You

To my clients, many of whom I have known for 30 years or more, a heartfelt and sincere thank you for the trust you have placed in us, especially in the critical period when we were a start-up. It continues to mean so much and will never be forgotten. I trust we met your expectations. I hope it's not a contradiction about problem solving, but we only stopped working on our very first job, ITB1001, a couple of years ago. It's always hard to bid a fond farewell when a site gets permission!

To my professional colleagues in other practices, a sincere thank you! Over the years, I have been lucky enough to work with many talented planners, architects, solicitors, barristers and landscape architects who were and still are, at the top of your game. You know who you are. There are too many to mention and it has been fun..... well mostly.

To my fellow Partners, thank you for putting up with me and for your support. It means a lot!



## Highlights

Highlights over the years: setting up i-Transport, still having a business in 2024 and still being (I think) friends with my Partners, knowing many clients and professional colleagues for more than 30 years and who have become close friends, delivering over 6,000,000 sq ft.<sup>2</sup> of mixed-use development on an 85 acre site at Wembley Park, securing the Phase 3 permission for ExCeL, working on major urban extensions with complex multi modal transport issues, and World Heritage Sites, including Stonehenge and Avebury. There's also been some fabulous meals and bars along the way. Low points, yes but not too many and the less said the better.



# What Have I Learnt?

- The needs of clients come first.
- Always employ people who are brighter than yourself. I've been privileged to work with many talented and lovely people who have made my life easier and without whom, I would not be where I am today. Thank you!
- Always treat people fairly and life will return much more to you.
- Finally, be careful of what you wish for. If any of you are thinking of selling your businesses to a larger entity, think very, very carefully before you sell what you have created in your own image to someone who sadly, in my experience, is unlikely to understand your mission or share your business values. With i-Transport, we have chosen to do the opposite and set up a legacy practice and I am proud of our collective achievements.



As for the future, I will continue travelling to far flung places, and will have time to pursue the many hobbies that I have not had time for. Some of you may know that I've just obtained my racing licence and on the classic car front, a trip through France following the Tour Auto route beckons as does an invitation from TAG Heuer to the 2024 Targa Florio Classico in Sicily in October. Oh, and I will still have time for an ongoing consultancy arrangement with i-Transport on a call on call off basis, so hopefully our paths will still cross.

Wishing you all health and happiness.  
It's been a blast.

À bientôt.

Handwritten signature 'Simon' in blue ink.