
**Richard Taylor
Cambridge**

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Emma Thornton
Head of City Centre Management & Tourism
The Guildhall
Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

20th February 2009

Dear Emma Thornton,

I am writing to express my interest in being considered for the position of residents' director on the new Cambridge city centre management partnership board. This role has been advertised on the City Council's website and elsewhere. I believe the person with the largest mandate for the role of a residents' representative is Cambridge's MP. I have written to Mr Howarth to encourage him to put himself forward for the role; only if he has not done so do I wish to be considered myself.

I have lived and worked within Cambridge city centre since 2001. I am independent, I not a member of any political party or any particular campaigning group within the city. As I am self-employed I am able to attend meetings at any time of the day.

My interests in the city centre are broad, I am prepared to contribute on the full range of the partnership's areas of activity. As residents of Cambridge we are custodians of one of the most beautiful city centers in the world, I appreciate the responsibilities which come with that. The city centre also has to function for retailers, residents and the universities as well as the very wide range of businesses which operate here. I am aware of the challenges which the city and region are facing as the population of the city and surrounding area is set to expand massively.

I support the aim of the organisation which has been presented as being to free the city centre management and eventually tourism functions of the city council, which are predominantly not publicly funded, from local government bureaucracy. I hope this can be achieved without losing democratic influence where it is necessary, and recognise that moving away from the city council makes effective residents' representation even more crucial.

I am in regular contact with residents groups including the cycling campaign, the Friends of Midsummer Common and the Jesus Green Association with respect to matters affecting the city. I am also regularly in touch with the city's media. I believe a key part of the residents' director ought be engagement with existing groups, not just residents associations, for example the students' unions, churches, cycling campaign and Cambridge Preservation Society.

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Park street residents' association have written to me suggesting I offer myself for this position.

The board of directors of the partnership would, I believe, be strengthened by the presence of individuals representing established groups in the city. I would like to see the partnership in the future move towards a model where representatives are selected by those they are intended to represent. I consider the appointment of John Dix of Hewitsons, as professional services representative, apparently as a direct reward for his company's work on setting up the organisation as appearing particularly dodgy. I would also like to see consideration given to board level representation of additional groups such as County Councillors, market/street traders and the students' unions.

It would be all too easy I imagine for Emma Thornton and Ian Sandison to appoint someone who has expressed an opposition to conflict as the residents' director. While such an appointment might well make life easier for other board members I do not think it would be the best decision in the interests of the city and its residents. There is a need for someone who is happy to be in a minority on the board and realises that being a residents' champion will inevitably often place them at odds with other members. I have discussed the role with Adrian Brink who represented residents on the previous board, and listened to his contribution at the residents' briefing in which he described this dynamic. I believe I will be able to make a robust contribution and will be prepared to stand up to the dominant stakeholders to champion the interests of residents. While some of the other members of the board of directors will be city residents themselves, their primary interest and perspective will arise from their employment or other role.

I am a strong believer in openness and transparency; I would encourage the new partnership to operate in as open and accessible a manner as possible. I have made my notes and observations on my dealings with the partnership so far available on my website, and would continue to do this if appointed. I will make this letter of application, along with my CV, points addressing the person specification and notes on specific issues, all of which I am enclosing, public.

Should you wish to call me for an interview I would be happy to meet with you, Cllr Cantrill and Mr Sandison and discuss further what I would be able to offer in this role.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Taylor.

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Notes on Specific Issues

I was listening carefully to the matters raised at the residents' briefing held on the 9th of February 2009 and have published my notes. (1)

At the residents briefing an individual spoke to say: "The interaction of green space with the built form is one of the unique and important features of the city centre", I agree strongly with that sentiment. Ensuring the city's green spaces and trees are given due weight by the new partnership will be an important role for the residents' director. I am very passionate about preserving the city's trees and green space as evidenced by my vocal opposition to the council's plans to fell fifty-nine trees on Jesus Green.

I have taken a keen interest in policing issues which affect Cambridge city centre I think that is one area where I have clearly demonstrated that I am prepared to stand up to large organisations and be constructively critical. For example at the last West/Central area committee I questioned why the police's public consultations focus on anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood policing and omit key upcoming changes to policing including giving police powers to security guards, the use of body worn video and the arming of all response police with TASER weapons, all of which may substantially change the nature of the city centre within the next year or so. In a related area, over the last four years I have made many comments and suggestions relating to the city's CCTV system, a number of which have been taken up by the council.

Competition is critical to a functioning city I have lobbied for it to be introduced as a mechanism to drive Cambridge University Colleges to improve, have expressed my concerns with respect to the possibility the new station taxi-rank might not be freely open to all and have supported competition in the city's punting market.

There are far too many further specific areas I have engaged with to address all of them here, examples include transport, street lighting, cycling, the night time economy and public toilets. I also took part in the consultation on new pedestrian signage for the city centre. (2)

1. <http://www.raylor.co.uk/new-pedestrian-maps-for-cambridge-city-centre.html>

2. <http://www.raylor.co.uk/residents-representation-on-the-city-centre-partnership-board-love-cambridge.html>

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Additional Points Further Addressing the Person Specification

My education and qualifications are presented on my enclosed CV. Following a scientific education and time working as a bench scientist I have served as a director of two Cambridge based scientific companies. I am currently also a shareholder and advisor to a Dorset based life science and pharmaceutical information company.

Previous involvement in the not-for-profit sector.

While an undergraduate student I was elected to Imperial College Union's council, the sovereign body of an organisation currently with a turnover in excess of £5m running three bars, a shop, a fleet of vehicles. I took a particular interest in services and democracy. I maintained that interest at Cambridge, though without standing for any formal positions as for a number of years I dedicated my time almost entirely to my work on pharmaceutical formulations. Informally I have provided information technology related advice to a Cambridge based charity. I have also taken an interest in the running of the detention centre at Oakington. In 2007 I volunteered to be a member of the Independent Monitoring Board there - I and other volunteers have not received security clearance.

I maintain a not-for-profit personal website, <http://www.raylor.co.uk/> which records my campaigning and observations as an independent member of the public on a wide range of subjects, often from a Cambridge perspective. .

Experience of setting up new companies and determining strategic direction.

In each of the three companies I have been involved in as a director or shareholder I have had responsibility for and input into setting the strategic direction of the company. In respect of CAP this was a University of Cambridge spin-out, retaining space within the university and employing staff via the university. I set up Sci7 Ltd. and am aware of the role and responsibilities of a company director.

Through my family's interests (elsewhere in the UK) I have an awareness of commercial property ownership and management issues.

Environments where I have developed the communications skills required for this role include working as a member of an academic research group, presenting scientific results or products. pitching for new business and demonstrating new technologies. Teaching and training positions, and contributing to public meetings involve listening, challenging, debating and provided an opportunity to develop those skills.

I am very comfortable working with legalistic documents, such as contracts, constitutions, legislation for example and often do this as part of my professional and campaigning activities.

February 2009

Richard Taylor

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Current Positions

2001- Present

Director : Sci7 Ltd.

Sci7 is a data-mining and research company specialising in biotechnology. Sci7 counts many of the world's leading biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies among the end users of its information products. (Incorporated 2005)

2005- Present

Adviser/Shareholder : BioPortfolio Ltd.

BioPortfolio is a marketing and information company which operates a business to business website targeted at the professional executive and researcher. BioPortfolio offers a range of marketing and promotional services as well as specialised resources including the BioEvents calendar, one of the most comprehensive bio-pharma conference resources. The company also supplies professional market research reports to biotechnology and pharmaceutical executives.

Education

2001 – 2005

Graduate Research : University of Cambridge

Conducted research as a PhD candidate on "Functional Formulations for Viral Gene Vectors and Vaccines". No thesis submitted.

1998 – 2001

BSc Biochemistry (2:1) : Imperial College, London

Courses: Bio-analytical Technology, Genetics and Genomics, Molecular Basis of Infection, Molecular Basis of Development

1991 – 1998

A Levels : The King's School Chester

A grade A Levels in Maths, Chemistry, Biology and General Studies.

Previous Positions

2004 – 2006

Researcher / Director : Cambridge Applied Polymers

Working within the University of Cambridge conducting commercial technology assessments and developing technologies for engineering functional microstructural formulations for biological materials. Working directly with major multinational clients. Appointed a Director in November 2005.

Work resulted in a patent application entitled: Encapsulation of edible oil products and encapsulated edible oil products. No. WO2007034213 (2007)

2003 – 2005

Supervisor : University of Cambridge

Small group teaching of natural science, medical, and veterinary undergraduates.

2001- 2004

Researcher : University of Cambridge

Novel formulations for complex biological therapeutics, including viruses, DNA, lipids and proteins.

2003 –2004

Bioinformatician : Abcam, Cambridge

Automating aspects company operations via integration of internal and remote databases.

2002

Researcher : Nektar Therapeutics

Particulate biological formulation using the company's specialist techniques; Investigation of effect of processing conditions on activity.

1999 - 2001

Trainer : University of London Union

Student trainer organising, promoting, writing and presenting training sessions. Promoted to supervisor in October 2000, leading team of seven trainers.

2001

Student : Imperial College, London

Research Project, as part of BSc. Investigating membrane proteins of *C. difficile*.

Publications

1. S. Zhai , R. Taylor, R. Sanches and N.K.H. Slater (2003) Measurement of Lyophilisation Primary Drying Rates by Freeze-drying Microscopy, Chemical Engineering Science, Volume 58, Issue 11, June , Pages 2313-2323.
2. Suling Zhai, Raino K. Hansen, Richard Taylor, Jeremy N. Skepper, Raquel Sanches, and Nigel K.H. Slater (2004) Effect of Freezing Rates and Excipients on the Infectivity of a Live Viral Vaccine during Lyophilization Biotechnol. Prog; DOI:10.1021/bp034362x
3. R.Taylor, S. Zhai and N.K.H. Slater, (2004) Functional formulations for gene therapy vectors, Presented at the 2nd Annual Biomaterials Workshop, Cranfield University, UK.
4. S.Zhai, H.Su, R.Taylor and N.K.H. Slater (2004) Pure Ice Sublimation within Vials in a Laboratory Lyophiliser; Comparison of Theory with Experiment. Chemical Engineering Science Volume. 60, no.4, Pages 1167-1176
5. J Morris, G.J.Morris, R Taylor, S. Zhai and N.K.H. Slater. (2004) The effect of controlled nucleation on the ice structure, drying rate and protein recovery in vials cooled in a modified freeze drier. Cryobiology 49, 308-309.

Personal

- A strong supporter of democracy and meritocracy.
- Interested in improving local and national policing and retaining policing by consent through:
 - Strongly opposing issuing of TASERs to non-firearms police in the UK.
 - Drawing attention to Cambridgeshire Police's worrying policy of considering the PACE codes voluntary.
- Regular contributor to local public meetings and consultations in Cambridge and the surrounding area on a wide range of subjects including:
 - The development and expansion of the city of Cambridge
 - The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), particularly with respect to CCTV.
 - The functioning of local democracy.
- Published views on jury trials, secret inquests, Stonehenge and other subjects.
- Elected to Imperial College's Student Union Council, a member of for two years.
- British, Resident of Cambridge, UK since 2001 and have a driving licence.

Communication

- Confident and persuasive making technical presentations and speaking in public.
- Teaching and training experience.
- Expert in online communication.

I.T.

- Experienced in selecting the most appropriate technological approach for a task.
- Awareness of and interest in a range of emerging technologies.
- Proficient in the use of a broad range of electronic information sources, including patent and journal databases.
- Awareness of intellectual property issues, particularly with respect to scientific publications, internet search, syndication and fair use.

Scientific / Analytical

- Interest and knowledge particularly in the areas of virology, vaccines, formulation, emerging diseases, bioinformatics, protein structure
- Member of a departmental Biological Safety Committee at Imperial, worked on improving Biological Safety Management at Cambridge.
- Experience participating in all aspects of the scientific process including preparation of grant reports, peer review of funding applications, and initiation of collaborations.
- A broad knowledge of a range of biotechnological, molecular biology, and chemical engineering techniques and instrumentation.
- Experienced conducting scientific and technical reviews in both academic and commercial environments.
- Strong mathematical and IT skills.