**Andrew Ashcroft**

**8 Elm Bank Close**

**Leamington Spa**

**Warwickshire**

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**Profile**

I have a very strong professional and personal commitment to neighbourhood planning. I also have excellent inter-personal skills and an ability to work positively with a wide range of people and organisations. I bring extensive experience in neighbourhood planning. This ranges from a former leadership role in a council with an extensive range of neighbourhood plan designations, carrying out a wide variety of examinations and health checks, being involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan as a steering group member and in assisting other groups as a consultant to prepare their plans.

**Current Employment**

Director – Andrew Ashcroft Planning Limited

**Recent Employment History**

Assistant Director- Economy, Environment and Culture

Herefordshire Council

2009-2015

Head of Planning Services

Herefordshire Council

2006-2009

Head of Planning and Environment Services

Isle of Wight Council

2002-2006

**Qualifications**

B.A. (Hons.) Geography

King’s College London (1980)

M.A. Environmental Planning

University of Nottingham (1982)

Diploma of Management Studies

De Montfort University, Leicester (1999)

Member of Royal Town Planning Institute (since 1986)

**Neighbourhood Planning Experience**

*Designations*

I oversaw the designation of 97 neighbourhood areas in Herefordshire (up to December 2015). In this context I established a neighbourhood planning team to support this agenda. The team continues to have a sharp focus in delivering practical and accessible advice to qualifying bodies.

*Independent Examinations (NPIERS-registered examiner)*

I have examined 150 neighbourhood plans (as at December 2020). They cover an extensive range of urban and rural neighbourhood areas. They are provided in a separate schedule. Eleven of these examinations involved the need for a hearing.

Several of the examinations were based in locations with significant environmental designations including Green Belts and National Parks/Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

*Health Checks/advice to neighbourhood groups*

In addition to examination work I have carried out fifteen neighbourhood plan health checks (April 2014 to date). In several cases the health check work resulted in the refinement of the Plan concerned and made the eventual examination process much simpler.

I have also provided fast track support to the relevant parish councils as part of the production of the Benson and Chinnor Neighbourhood Plans (in South Oxfordshire). Both Plans are now made. I have also provided support to the neighbourhood planning groups in Crondall (Hampshire) and Rottingdean (Brighton). I am currently working with the Brighton Marina Forum as it develops its plan.

I was a member of the steering group for the preparation of the Sutton St Nicholas Neighbourhood Plan (my former home village) in Herefordshire. The Plan is now ‘made’.

*Other neighbourhood plan involvement and continuous professional development*

I was one of four experienced examiners who participated in the CLG/NPIERS working party to identify and capture best practice for qualifying bodies, local planning authorities and examiners on the neighbourhood plan examination process. This work was published in Advice Notes in April 2018.

I have delivered training on neighbourhood planning to town and parish councils at events organised by Mid Sussex District Council, Herefordshire Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Milton Keynes Council. I have also presented a training package to a wider group of town and parish councils on neighbourhood planning through the Local Government Association.

Andrew Ashcroft

December 2020