COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference No. 259/D/14

In the Matter of Hurst Common, Sidcup, Bexley, Greater London

DECISION

This dispute relates to the registration at Entry No. 1 in the Land Section of Register Unit No. CL. 165 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Greater London Council and is occasioned by Objection No. 84 made by the London Borough of Bexley and noted in the Register on 1st May 1972.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the dispute at Watergate House, WC2 on 2nd March 1976. The hearing was attended by Mr B N Nunns, the applicant for the registration, and by Mr A Short, solicitor, on behalf of the Bexley London Borough Council.

Mr Nunns gave me an interesting account of his researches into the history of the land now known as Hurst Common. It appears that it was formerly part of a field in the occupation of a farmer, who allowed it to be used as a caravan encampment, and that it was given the name of Hurst Common by the local inhabitants after it came to be so used. Most of the field has been developed for housing and the land comprised in the Register Unit is a small strip which was left out of the development and was purchased by the local authority for a road widening which has never been carried out. Mr Nunns stated that the result of his researches showed that the land in question did not fall within either limb of the definition of "common land" in section 22(1) of the Commons Registration Act of 1965.

In these circumstances I refuse to confirm the registration.

I am required by regulation 30(1) of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 to explain that a person aggrieved by this decision as being erroneous in roint of law may, within 6 weeks from the date on which notice of the decision is sent to him, require me to state a case for the decision of the High Court.

Dated this 175 day of March

Chief Commons Commissioner