



In the Matter of Aycliffe Village Green,
Great Aycliffe, Sedgefield D.C.

DECISION

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of the land described above being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG 64 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Durham County Council of which no person is registered under section 4 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 as the owner.

Following upon the public notice of this reference Aycliffe Town Council claimed to be the freehold owner of the land in question and no other person claimed to have information as to its ownership.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the question of the ownership of the land at Darlington on 24 July 1980.

At the hearing Mrs J. Crowden, Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the Claimant. Aycliffe Town Council is the successor to Aycliffe Parish Council. Mr J Farquhar, who has been successively clerk to both councils since 1969, said that the Green has been maintained by each Council in succession at an average annual cost of £8000. It has competed successfully in a floral show national competition, and is used for children's sports and general enjoyment.

On this evidence I am satisfied that the Claimant is the owner of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Durham County Council, as registration authority, to register Aycliffe Town Council as the owner of the land under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

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 point 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 12 August 1980

L. J. Morris Smith

Commons Commissioner