



**In the Matter of Springfield Green, Chelmsford,
Essex**

This reference relates to the question of the ownership of land known as Springfield Green, Chelmsford, being the land comprised in the Land Section of Register Unit No. VG 114 in the Register of Town or Village Greens maintained by the Essex 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 Col. J Austin, the Chelmsford Borough Council, and the Essex County Council claimed to be the freehold owners of parts 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 Chelmsford on 7 December 1983.

At the hearing the Chelmsford Borough Council was represented by Mr A G Simpson, Solicitor, and Col. Austin by Mr J M Macdonald, Solicitor.

There are three pieces of land the subject of the reference. One of them is a triangular area to the west of All Saints Church. The northern side of this triangular area is the site of a former ditch dividing the grounds of Lawn House, the property of Col. Austin and his wife, from the green to the south. This ditch was filled in by the former Essex County Council when improving the adjoining road, and the County Council apologised to Col. Austin and his wife for trespassing on their land.

In the absence of any evidence I am satisfied that Col. Austin and his wife are the owners of a small part of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the Essex County Council, as registration authority, to register them as the owners of that part under section 8(2) of the Act of 1965.

In the absence of any further evidence, I am not satisfied that any person is the owner of the remainder of the land, and I shall accordingly direct the County Council to register the Chelmsford Borough Council as the owner of that part under section 8(3) 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 this

16th

day of December

1983

Chief Commons Commissioner