# PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA



### Wednesday, 19 May 2010

### at 10.00 am

### in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### MEMBERS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Councillors R. Cook, Cranney, Fleet, Griffin, Laffey, G Lilley, London, J Marshall, McKenna, Morris, Plant, Richardson and Wright

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS
- 3. MINUTES
  - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2010 (to follow)
- 4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION
  - 4.1 Planning Applications *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

1.	H/2008/0001	Brierton Moorhouse Farm, Dalton Back
		Lane, Hartlepool
2.	H/2010/0151	North Hart Farm Butts Lane Hartlepool
3.	H/2010/0122	21 Clarkson Court, Hartlepool
4.	H/2010/0191	Land Adjacent To Hartfields Retirement
		Village
5.	H/2010/0170	Piercy Farm, Dalton Piercy, Hartlepool

- 4.2 Update on Current Complaints *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 4.3 Update Of Performance Against Best Value Indicators *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 4.4 Appeal Ref App/H0724/A/10/2125994/NWF: H/2009/0710 Use of premises as a takeaw ay (A5 Use) operating betw een the hours of: Sunday to Wednesday 8.00 24 hrs and Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8.00 3.00 hrs. Sopranos, 93 York Road, Hartlepool TS24 9PB Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
- 4.5 Appeal By Mr K Napper Appeal Ref: App/H0724/D/10/2123401 Site At:10 Northwold Close, Hartlepool, TS25 2LP *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 4.6 Appeal By Mr L Pennick, Tail End Fisheries, Church Street, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*
- 4.7 Application To Register Land At Hart Village As A Village Green Chief Solicitor & Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
- 4.8 Application To Register Land At Spencer Grove And Dickens Grove As A Village Green Chief Solicitor & Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

### **5 FOR INFORMATION**

Site Visits – Any site visits requested by the Committee at this meeting will take place at 9.30 amon the morning of the next Planning Committee (date to be confirmed)

Next Scheduled Meeting - To be confirmed

# REPORT to PLANNING COMMITTEE

19 May 2010



**Report of:** Chief Solicitor & Director of Regeneration and

Neighbourhoods

**Subject:** APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND AT SPENCER

GROVE AND DICKENS GROVE AS A VILLAGE

**GREEN** 

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the Committee's consideration on the method of determination of an application to register an area of land in between Spenser Grove and Dickens Grove as a Village Green (see **Appendix 1**).

### 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 One of the functions of the Council, as Registration Authority under the Commons Act 2006, is to maintain a register of all Town and Village Greens within the Borough. Land which is not already registered as either Town or Village Green may registered if either the landowner voluntarily applies to register the land or if a 'significant number of inhabitants' living near the land have indulged in 'lawful sports and pastimes' on the land for a period of at least 20 years prior to their application.
- 2.1.2 Where rights over a land compatible with the land being considered to be a village green can be established through usage by the local inhabitants, legislation provides a process for submission of an application for registration. Where such an application is lodged, the authority is required to make a determination whether the circumstances and history are such that the requirements for the registration of the land as a village green are fulfilled.
- 2.1.3 The land which is the subject of this application, land between Spenser Grove and Dickens Grove, is owned by the Council. This means the Council is both Registration Authority and Landowner. In circumstances such as this, Government Guidance recommends that any application be referred to a

third party for determination. This will normally be a Planning Inspector or a Planning Counsel with suitable qualification and experience.

2.1.4 The remainder of this report places before the committee information which is considered to be sufficient to enable the committee to determine the most suitable method of determination for the application.

### 3 History

- 3.1.1 In March 2008 the Department of Adult and Community Services received an application, from Mrs Valerie Williamson on behalf of the residents of Spenser Grove and Dickens grove, under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 to register an area of land between Spenser Grove and Dickens Grove.
- **3.1.2** The application was accepted as a valid application on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.
- 3.1.3 The application contained evidence of the rights claimed to have been exercised by the inhabitants of Spenser Grove, Dickens Grove and the surrounding area. The evidence consists of statements from residents.
- 3.1.4 Notice was served on the Council as landowner and a statement in response has been received from Counsel instructed on behalf of the Council. A public notice was also posted on the site and advertised in the local press in accordance with the regulations. No other submissions from the public were received.
- 3.1.5 On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 the Council, as landowner, submitted an application under s15 of the Commons Act 2006 to voluntarily register part of the land as a village green. (see **Appendix 2**)

### 3.2 The Land

- 3.2.1 The land to which the application relates lies to the north of Browning Avenue, to the east of Spenser Grove, to the west of Dickens Grove and to the south of Hartlepool Sixth Form College.
- 3.2.2 The exact location and extent of the land is shown on the plan contained within the application (Appendix 1, Exhibit 'A')
- 3.2.3 The area of land subject to the voluntary registration by the Council is shown edged red on the plan contained within the Council's application. (Appendix 2, Exhibit)

### 3.3 The Application

**3.3.1** The application was made by Mrs Valerie Williamson on behalf of the inhabitants of the local area. Evidence was also provided in the form of witness statements from 9 local residents.

### 3.4 The Landowner

**3.4.1** The land is owned by Hartlepool Borough Council under its function as Education Authority. Part of the land was formerly the Kingsley Nursery.

### 3. CONSULTATION

**3.1** The following persons and bodies were initially consulted with, regarding the claim:

Hartlepool Borough Council (Estates Department) as Landowner

3.2 The notice of application was published in accordance with the legislation. There were no responses to the public consultation.

### 4. LEGISLATION

- **4.1** Under s 15 of the Commons Act 2006:
  - (1) Any person may apply to the commons registration authority to register land to which this Part applies as a town or village green in a case where subsection (2), (3) or (4) applies.
  - (2) This subsection applies where—
    - (a) a significant number of the inhabitants of any locality, or of any neighbourhood within a locality, have indulged as of right in lawful sports and pastimes on the land for a period of at least 20 years; and
    - (b) they continue to do so at the time of the application.

Subsections (3) and (4) or not relevant to this application.

- **4.2** From the information supplied by the applicant it would appear there is sufficient evidence for the committee to consider the application on its merits under the provisions of s15 of the Commons Act 2006.
- 4.3 The Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008 (The 2008 Regulations) are intended to set out the process for dealing with any applications to register a Village Green. These regulations have not yet come into force but offer a clear indication of the practice and procedure to be adopted by the registration authority.

- 4.4 Paragraph 27(3)(a) of the 2008 Regulations state that a registration authority must refer, to the Planning Inspectorate for determination by it, any application in which the registration authority has an interest in the outcome of the application. The situation where the registration authority is also the landowner is a clear example of this.
- 4.5 As the 2008 Regulation has not yet come into force the Council does have the option to refer the matter for determination by an independent Planning Counsel.
- 4.6 Once the Council has agreed on the method for determination all the paperwork relating to the application will passed over to the person appointed to carry out the determination who will then have conduct of the matter. That person then decides as to how they wish to conduct the determination; this may include a public enquiry or hearing.
- **4.7** Following the determination by the third party matter will be referred back to the Council for final determination. It will then be open to the Council to accept or reject the third party determination.

### 5. PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The main difference between the two options available to the Council in relation to the determination of this application is in the degree of independence of the determination.
- 5.2 As the application affects land owned by the Council, the Council has a clear financial interest in the outcome of the determination. Any involvement by the Council in the decision making process could open the Council up to a accusation of bias.
- 5.3 If the application to register the land as a village green is successful the value of the land will be much reduced as there would be no possibility of redeveloping the land for any more valuable use.
- 5.4 The clearest way for the Council to ensure they matter is determined independently is ask that the matter be dealt with through the Planning Inspectorate's Town & Village Green Service. Under this scheme the Planning Inspectorate will make a Planning Inspector available to carry out a non-statutory public enquiry to determine an application to register land as a village green. Once the Inspector has been appointed they will have full conduct of the determination. They can decide whether further evidence is required and will set the terms of reference for the enquiry.

- 5.5 The Planning Inspectorate are able to make a Planning Inspector available to conduct a Village Green enquiry. The daily rate for a Planning Inspector is £1,000.00. The guidance issued by the Planning Inspectorate indicates such an enquiry will take between 6 and 9 days overall. This includes preparation, the enquiry itself and the preparation of the decision. Discussions with the Planning Inspectorate indicate the earliest an Inspector would be available to carry out an Enquiry would be October 2010.
- 5.6 As the relevant part of the 2008 Regulations have not yet come into force the Council is not compelled to refer the matter to the Planning Inspectorate. It is possible for the Council to instruct a Counsel to carry out the determination. The instructions to Counsel would set out the terms of reference for the enquiry. Enquiries made with a Barristers Chambers indicate that the cost of appointing Counsel would be the same as the charges made by the Planning Inspectorate. This is £1,000.00 per day for preparation, holding the enquiry and the preparation of the decision. The time scale for appointing a Planning Counsel is similar to that offered by the Planning Inspectorate.

### 6. SUMMARY

- 6.1 Members are asked to consider the two options with a view to ensuring that the determination is seen to be taken at an arms length and that there is no conflict of interest between the Council's role as Registration Authority and Landowner. The option of referring the matter to the Planning Inspectorate ensures the determination is carried out entirely at arms length.
- 6.2 If the Council were to appoint a planning Counsel there would not be the same degree of separation between the Council and the determining body. The Council would have to set the terms of reference for the barrister conducting the enquiry. This could raise the inference that the Council still had a degree of control over the process of determining the application.
- 6.3 Whilst the relevant regulations are not yet in force, consideration should be given to their content. The reason this section of the 2008 Regulations have not been brought into affect is due to other issues and not the regulations relating to the situation where a Council is both registration authority and landowner.

### 7. OPTIONS

7.1 Two options are available when choosing the method of determination:

**OPTION 1.** To refer the matter to the Planning Inspectorate for determination by a Planning Inspector.

**OPTION 2.** To appoint an independent planning Counsel, of suitable qualification and experience. To carry out the determination.

### 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to refer the matter to the Planning Inspectorate for determination.

### 9. CONTACT OFFICER

P Cowie – Town & Village Green Officer, Adult and Community Services Department

### **Background Papers**

**Appendix 1** – Application made by Mrs  $\,$  V Williamson dated  $\,$ 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Appendix 2** – Statement of Objections to the application on behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Appendix 3** – Application made by Hartlepool Borough Council dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009

This bundle of evidence/set of background papers is available in the Members Library

Commons Act 2006: Section 15

# Application for the registration of land as a Town or Village Green

Village Gre	en		
Indicating valid dat HARTLEPOOL BO DEPART ADULT & COMMUNI MUNICIPAL	egistration authority e of receipt: DROUGH COUNCIL MENT OF TY SERVICES ADMIN BUILDINGS  AR 2009	Application number:  Register unit No(s):  VG number allocated at registration:	
		(CRA to complete only if application is successful)	
Applicants are advise and as a Town or Vill	d to read the 'Guidance Not age Green' and to note the	tes for the completion of an Application for the Registration of following:	
All applicants shou	ld complete questions 1-6 an	d 10–11.	
Section 15(1) enab 15(2), (3) or (4) app	les any person to apply to reg ply.	n 15(1) of the 2006 Act should, in addition, complete questions 7–8. gister land as a green where the criteria for registration in section der section 15(8) should, in addition, complete question 9.	
	1. Registration Author	prity	
Note 1	To the		
Insert name of registration authority.	HARTLEPOOL BORONGTH COUNCIL LEADBITTER BUILDINGS STOCKTON STREET HARTLEPOOL, TS24 7NU		

If there is more than one applicant, list all names. Please use a separate sheet if necessary. State the full title of the organisation if a body corporate or unincorporate.

If question 3 is not completed all correspondence and notices will be sent to the first named applicant.

### Note 3

This question should be completed if a solicitor is instructed for the purposes of the application. If so all correspondence and notices will be sent to the person or firm named here.

20. 1041110	and address of the applicant
Name:	MRS VALERIE WILLIAMSON
Full posta	al address:
	THE POOL
	Postcode T525 5PJ
Telephor	ne number: nal dialling code) 01429 260134
Fax num (incl. natio	ber: nat dialling code)
E-mail ac	delieval@hotmaul.co.uk
3. Name Name.	NONE
Firm:	
Full post	al address:
	Post code
	Post code  ne number: nal dialling code)
(incl. natio	ne number: nal dialling code)

Note 4 For further advice on the criteria and qualifying dates for registration please see section 4 of the Guidance Notes.	4. Basis of application for registration and qualifying criteria  If you are the landowner and are seeking voluntarily to register your land please tick this box and move to question 5.  Application made under section 15(8):  If the application is made under section 15(1) of the Act, please tick one of the following boxes to indicate which particular subsection and qualifying
	criterion applies to the case.
	Section 15(2) applies:
* Section 15(6) enables any period of statutory closure where access to the land is denied to be disregarded in determining the 20	Section 15(3) applies:
year period.	Section 15(4) applies:
	If section 15(3) or (4) applies please indicate the date on which you consider that use as of right ended.
	If section 15(6)* applies please indicate the period of statutory closure (if any) which needs to be disregarded.

	5. Description and particulars of the area of land in respect of which application for registration is made
Note 5 The accompanying	Name by which usually known:
map must be at a scale of at least 1:2,500 and show the land by distinctive colouring to enable to it to be clearly identified.	SPENSER DICKENS GREEN
	Location:
	THE PIECE OF GREEN BETWEEN SPENSER AND DICKENS GROVES TS25 5PN
* Only complete if the land is already registered as common	Shown in colour on the map which is marked and attached to the statutory declaration.
land.	Common land register unit number (if relevant) *
Note 6 It may be possible to	6. Locality or neighbourhood within a locality in respect of which the application is made
indicate the locality of the green by reference to an administrative area, such as a parish or electoral ward, or other area sufficiently	Please show the locality or neighbourhood within the locality to which the claimed green relates, either by writing the administrative area or geographical area by name below, or by attaching a map on which the area is clearly marked:
defined by name (such as a village or street). If this is not possible a map should be provided on which a locality or neighbourhood is marked clearly.	SPENSOR AND DICKENS GROVE ARE IN THE RIFT HOUSE AREA OF HARTLEYOOL.
	Tick here if map attached:

Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

# 7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

The land has been in common use for the past 43 years that I have lived here It has never been fenced in and we have used it freely without permission, force or secrecy.

The land is used by a significant number of local people and children Enaulging in lawfull sports and passtimes, playing fauthait, rounders or excersizing our dogs.

we have established recreational rights over the land useing it all the year round we build shownen in the comper and have waterstides in the summer. Bonfire right we have a small frewer to display.

The green altracts vast amounts of birds and wildlufe hedgehogs, squirrels, moles and ducks which everybody enjoys watching and feeding.

we look after the green and keep it litter

Please use a separate sheet if necessary.

Where relevant include reference to title numbers in the register of title held by the Land Registry.

If no one has been identified in this section you should write "none"

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

8. Name and address of every person whom the applicant believes to be an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of any part of the land claimed to be a town or village green

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH CCUNCIL LEADBITTER BUILDINGS GOCKTON STREET 1524 7NU.

9. Voluntary registration - declarations of consent from 'relevant leaseholder', and of the proprietor of any 'relevant charge' over the land

Note 9

List all such declarations that accompany the application. If none is required, write "none".

This information is not needed if an application is being made to register the land as a green under section 15(1).

10. Supporting documentation

MONE

Note 10

List all supporting documents and maps accompanying the application. If none, write "none"

Please use a separate sheet if necessary.

MAP EXHIBIT WITNESS STATEMENTS MARKED

If there are any other matters which should be brought to the attention of the registration authority (in particular if a person interested in the land is expected to challenge the application for registration). Full details should be given here or on a separate sheet if necessary.

### 11. Any other information relating to the application

RECENTLY THE LAND HAS BECOME UNDER A
PLANNING APPLICATION REF NO 4/2008/0046

### Note 12

The application must be signed by each individual applicant, or by the authorised officer of an applicant which is a body corporate or unincorporate

Date:

54 MARCH 2008

Signatures:

Mis V. Williamson Dloay

J Procupay Standman

B A Orce Strong

### REMINDER TO APPLICANT

You are advised to keep a copy of the application and all associated documentation. Applicants should be aware that signature of the statutory declaration is a swom statement of truth in presenting the application and accompanying evidence. The making of a false statement for the purposes of this application may render the maker liable to prosecution.

# Data Protection Act 1998

The application and any representations made cannot be treated as confidential. To determine the application it will be necessary for the registration authority to disclose information received from you to others, which may include other local authorities, Government Departments, public bodies, other organisations and members of the public.

# Statutory Declaration In Support

To be made by the applicant, or by one of the applicants, or by his or their solicitor, or, if the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporate, by its solicitor, or by the person who signed the application.

- <sup>1</sup> Insert full name (and address if not given in the application form).
- MALERIE. WILLIAMS (No solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—
- <sup>2</sup> Delete and adapt as necessary.
- <sup>3</sup> Insert name if Applicable
- 1.2 I am ((the person (one of the persons) who (has) (have) signed the foregoing application)) ((the solicitor to (the applicant) (3 one of the applicants)).
- 2. The facts set out in the application form are to the best of my knowledge and belief fully and truly stated and I am not aware of any other fact which should be brought to the attention of the registration authority as likely to affect its decision on this application, nor of any document relating to the matter other than those (if any) mentioned in parts 10 and 11 of the application.
- 3. The map now produced as part of this declaration is the map referred to in part 5 of the application.
- <sup>4</sup> Complete only in the case of voluntary registration (strike through if this is not relevant)
- 4. <sup>4</sup> I hereby apply under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006 to register as a green the land indicated on the map and that is in my ownership. I have provided the following necessary declarations of consent:
- (i) a declaration of ownership of the land;
- (ii) a declaration that all necessary consents from the relevant leaseholder or proprietor of any relevant charge over the land have

Cont/

# APPENDIX 1

4 Continued

been received and are exhibited with this declaration; or (iii) where no such consents are required, a declaration to that effect.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared by the said VALERIE NILLIAMSON MIS U. Williams

at 2 00 Am.

I DICK DIUS GROVE, HAKTLEYOU

Signature of Declarant

this

5th day of MARCH 2008)

Before me \*

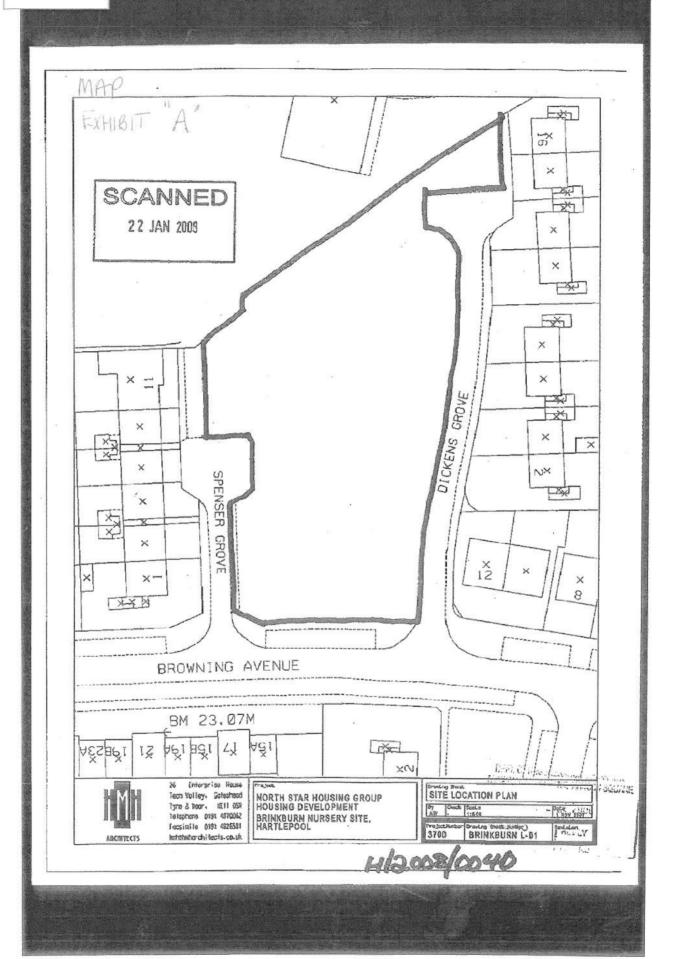
Qualification:

The statutory declaration must be made before a justice of the peace, practising solicitor, commissioner for oaths or notary public.

Signature of the statutory declaration is a sworn statement of truth in presenting the application and accompanying evidence.

REMINDER TO OFFICER TAKING DECLARATION:

Please initial all alterations and mark any map as an exhibit



Note 7
Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8). 7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village

BOAREY 6. DICKENS GROVE Koop The Green like 18 as it is, as I have lived Dickens grove for 10 yes and My family up With the green as Part of My Children Play even, as it is very Safe now My Granchildren out in Dumer time would be a great loss to the Comunity as we all use and book out for each also children every one of ownauding areas.

1 Bouges

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7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

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This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

MESSLErator + Mr J BLNN 16 DICKERS GRENE, HARTIEFER TS25 SFJ The green area situated between Dickers Stence grower offers a great quality of life for both young and old, thets and volleilife. It provides Secosity, exercise, Unteraction and Freccion of play which all play a big Part in bringing the community together including smiles from ther groves + Avenues around. Our smily has been able to enjoy be green area for over 8 years now which include enjoying many activities such as water games (Hiddle Pools hale silcles and water frights) amongst adolfs as well as children, all ball games thinkable the use of bikes kites and climbing of tress again all under survivision. Giving us a great goolity of till which is now becoming loss able the to be removal of green areas around! I am very concerned that I will not be able to give my newborn child to some, interaction, Freccion of play and eversise as my first schuld and alsom my rucces an nel process the application of town | Village green also gives my pet day (snoot) and wildlife a. chance to be able to enjuy he green for many more years affect also my day enjoy Playing amongst be children whom all. his Presence and giving him exercise and Interation, it is also beautiful to see Variety of waldlife that the Creen authors birds, Sojonels, moles dixks and hedgings this it fasinating to see anci cuse keips chudren to restect our voilalife.

on regards

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# 7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

Note 7
Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8). With reference to the piece of land between Spenser Grove and Dickens Grove, this land has been Green land since the houses were built and nothing has ever been built on it and we want to keep it that way.

We have used this piece of land for the children to play on since we lived here, we moved to the area 30 years ago.

We have held parties and celebrations for our families and children.

We have had a few mini Gymkhanas on when my children had horses.

We have used the land to exercise our dogs in the past and other people still do. We still have people coming from the surrounding areas to exercise their dogs

During the summer children and grandchildren from our families and surrounding groves use the green to play on where they can be seen, and have been able to freely take toys out from their homes in safety. They have had picnics during the summer and have even camped overnight on the grass and the children now have water slides when the weather is warm. Fathers will also play football and rugby with their children and also rounder's have been played

We have squirrels and birds and this year have had ducks make their home here.

It is even a pleasure just to sit and look and see the peacefulness from our front window and are very keen to keep this land by turning it into a village green for us and the surrounding houses.

Sheila and Desmond Crow 11 Spenser Grove Hartlepool TS25 5PN Str Crow (Mrs)

WINESS STRIEMENT

Note 7
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This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8). 7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

Jone Hardman 7. Martin Grove
As a populated area my children
howe somewhere to go and play
this becomes a focal point
for my children and myselfand
Other Pavents to communicate
and become a wider part of
the Community.
This helps myself and my
family to become involved in
other activities the Community
may be taking fort in:

- · bonfire displays
- · Notional events
- · Ball games

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Hardman

Note 7
Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any

witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

Maureen Noble 10 ACKENS GROVE

My children have always played on the green, be it football, rugby or crichet. All the children from the 2 groves and their friends all play together no matter about age difference. In the hot scatter we put a big sheet of plastic out and I of the neighbours uses their hosepipe and the children make a sater slide even some of the adults join in, we then know the children are playing sof ely and supervised without warrying about excessive traffic or strangers leng in the area.

Malle

N

Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

12 DI CRENS GROVE

MR +MRS PORIS ROBERT REDY MY WIFIE AND T HAWE BEEN RESIDENTS IN THIS ARE FOR 25 YEARS AND HAVE ALWAYS BELLEVED OUR FORECOTHERS LEFT THIS LAND AS GREEN FIELD FOR THEM STEWNS FERRE COMMUNITIES TO ENJOYED DURING THIS TIME I HAVE SEEN LOCAL CHILREN PLAY MANY GAMES HND EXPERIENCE THERE FIRST NIGHT AWAY FROM HOME CAMPINE OUT. I HAVE SEEN DAOS KICKINE A BALL ABOUT WITH THEIR SONS BIRTHDAT AND GTHE FAMILY CELEBRATIONS SPILLING OVER ON TO THE FIELD GUY FAWKES NIGHT CELEBRATIONS. YOUNDSTERS OF ALL AGES PLAYING WITHOUT CARE IN THE WORLD IN A COMPLETELY SAFE ENVIRONENT. ALL ESSETIAL FAMILY. BONDINGS AND THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY FOR & THESE REASONS ALONG THIS AZEA SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

ONR T.

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7. Justification for application to register the Jand as a town or village green -

Note 7 Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and

enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

I have been a resident in this area for 22 years. My Ewo Sons have been raised play and Socialised with many or other residenti children. The green space that belongs to this area has been greatly used by children and adults alike Dickens) Games for rounders, grove and many other activites etc. In the world that we live in green areas are vitue with sufer being paramount As a parent andot state how important. to being able to lock out of Lounge window and see god children playing safety. The government has highlighted obesity in children, and these gree children to let of steam, socialize and wild the SKills chart are required yor well adjusted adults. These green area's must remain. 27/2/08

Note 7
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This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8). 7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

MR+ MRS FIDDES
7 SPENSER GROVE
HARTLEPCOL
TS25 5PN

TEL: 297572

WE WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR THE LAND BETWEEN SPENSER GROVE + DICKENS GROVE TO BE REGISTERED AS GREENBELT, WE HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 110 YEARS AND BOUGHT THE HOUSE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE LAND OUT FRONT, HAVING RAISED TWO DISABLES CHILDREN HERE AND NEEDING A SAFE ENVIRONEDT FOR THEM TO PLAY AND WHERE THEY COULD BE CLEARLY SEEN. QUE YOUNGEST SON CONTINUES TO PLAY ON THE FIELD ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER LOCAL CHILDREN (WEATHER + HEALTH PERMITTING ) HE PLAYS A RANGE OF SPORTS ON THEIR AND IN THE SUMMER TAKES HIS GCAL POSTS, BASKETS ALL HOOP, TRAMPOLINES ETC OUT ONTO THE FIELD WHERE ALL THE KID. JOIN IN WE HAVE A RANGE OF DIFFERENT AGED KIDS NIIC ALL PLAY TOGETHER AND HAVE DONES FOR YEARS WE HAVE A NEW GENERATION OF KIDS COMING ONTO THE FIELD NOW AND EDERYCHE LOCKS AFTER THEM INCLUDING THE OLDER KIDS THIS LAND HAS + ALLWAYST SHOWLD BE ACCOMMUNITY FIELD I HAVE HAD 3 GENERATIONS OF FAMILY EROUGHT UP HERE AND HAVE MYSELF + MY COUSINS ALSO PLAYED ON THIS FIELD. WE DONTWANT OUL KIDS HANGING AROUND ON STREET CORNERS OF OUTSIDE SHOPS CAUSING NUISANCE WE WANT THEN WHERE WE CAN SEE THAM

= tickes

Note 7
Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the

This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a green under section 15(8).

application.

7. Justification for application to register the land as a town or village green

MRS. B. COLDELL, 14 DICKENS CROVE.

land should be registered as Village green years I have hired and watered Etha cure peura old people young and 124 used for games of rounders a young lads have even with no problems. It is a stife for chuldren to play, overlooked by surrounding vouses It is used to dogs by people in the cettrack 5 and it SMay Killy Killiam Kit determented to the

B. A. Coucle

# IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMONS ACT 2006

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMONS (REGISTRATION OF TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS) (INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2007

AND IN THE MATTER OF LAND TO THE NORTH OF BROWNING AVENUE, THE EAST OF SPENSER GROVE AND THE WEST OF DICKENS GROVE, HARTLEPOOL

# STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is the Statement of Objections within the meaning of the Commons (Registration of Town or Village Greens) (Interim Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007 (the "2007 Regulations") made by Hartlepool Borough Council ("HBC") in relation to the application (the "Application") made by Mrs. Valerie Williamson (the "Applicant") dated 5 March 2008 for the registration of land to the north of Browning Avenue, the east of Spenser Grove and the west of Dickens Grove, Hartlepool ("the Land") as a town or village green ("TVG") under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006.
- 2. HBC is the freehold owner of the Land. The Land is defined by the Applicant in exhibit A to the Application. In this Statement of Objections, "the Land" is also used to refer to the area defined in the annotated overhead plan accompanying the Statement at Appendix 1. The upper area of the Land marked "the Playing Field Site" and edged in red on the plan at Appendix 1 will be referred to as "the Playing Field Site" below. The lower area of the Land marked "the Nursery School Site" and edged in blue on the plan at Appendix 1 will be referred to as "the Nursery School Site" below. The area at the top of Spenser Grove marked "the Spenser Grove Site" and

edged in black on the plan at Appendix 1 will be referred to as "the Spenser Grove Site".

#### SUMMARY OF HBC'S POSITION

- The Applicant has failed to show that the Land, or any part of it, should be registered under section 15(2) of the Commons Act 2006.
- 4. HBC objects to the part of the Land which is the Nursery School Site, or any part of it, being registered as a TVG. HBC further objects to the part of the land which is the Spenser Grove Site, or any part of it, being registered as a TVG. HBC's grounds of objection in these respects are set out below.
- 5. Without prejudice to the grounds of objection in relation to the Nursery School Site and the Spenser Grove Site, and without prejudice to the assertion that the Applicant has failed to show that the Playing Field Site should be registered, HBC does not object to the part of the Land which is the Playing Field Site being registered as a TVG under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006.
- 6. HBC supports the registration of the Playing Field Site as a TVG to be used for the benefit of inhabitants of the local neighbourhood. Upon receipt of a subsequent application by HBC under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006 to register the Playing Field Site, HBC invites the Registration Authority to dismiss summarily that part of the Application that relates to the Playing Field Site.
- HBC reserves its right to alter, add or expand upon its position in relation to the Playing Field Site.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A TVG

- 8. The Application is made under section 15(2) of the Commons Act 2006 and it is a requirement of that section that the Applicant must show the following:-
  - 8.1.1 That a significant number of the inhabitants of a qualifying area have indulged in recent activities on the entirety of the relevant site.
  - 8.1.2 The activities in which the inhabitants have indulged may properly be described as lawful sports and pastimes.
  - 8.1.3 The activities were such as at all times throughout the relevant 20 year period to bring home to the owners of the relevant site that a right to engage in lawful sports and pastimes "as of right" over the entire site was being asserted: R. v. Oxfordshire County Council ex parte Sunningwell Parish Council [2001] AC 335.
  - 8.1.4 The activities have been indulged in "as of right"; that is without force; without stealth; and without permission: R (Beresford) v. Sunderland City Council [2003] UKHL 60, [2004] 1 AC 889.
  - 8.1.5 The activities have taken place over a period of not less than 20 years and continue to occur thereafter.
- An application may be made by the owners of any land to register that land under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006. The requirements above do not apply to such an application.

# GROUNDS OF OBJECTION: THE NURSERY SCHOOL SITE Ground One

- The occupation and use of the Nursery School Site for the purposes of a nursery school up until May 2003 was wholly incompatible with that part of the Land being used for informal recreation by local residents in such a way as to be "as of right", or at all.
- 11. HBC purchased the site which encompasses the Land on 25 April 1921, Planning permission was received to develop the Nursery School Site as such on 8 March 1972. A nursery school was subsequently built which was formerly called the Kingsley Nursery School and latterly the Brinkburn Nursery School (the "Nursery School"). The site occupied by the Nursery School, and in particular the school building itself, can be seen on the overhead photograph at Appendix 2 of this Statement.
- The Nursery School continued to form an integral part of the Nursery School Site until in or around May 2003 when it was demolished.
- 13. While a registration authority does not have to see evidence of qualifying use of every square foot of a claimed TVG, it must be persuaded that for all practical purposes it can sensibly be said that the whole of the claimed TVG has been so used throughout the relevant period: R (Cheltenham Builders Ltd) v. South Gloucestershire Council [2004] JPL 975.
- 14. Use "as of right" will not be found where the degree of deference is so significant that it would not appear to a reasonable owner that the local residents were asserting any right to use the land as of right: R (Kevin Lewis) v. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Persimmon Homes (Teesside) Limited [2009] EWCA Civ 3 (CA).

- 15. Any claimed use for lawful sports and pastimes which took place prior to 2003 (which is not admitted) would not have brought home to HBC that a right to engage in the same "as of right" was being asserted in respect of the Nursery School Site because (i) the school building physically prevented the use of the whole of the Nursery School Site for informal recreation and (ii) any use of the land for informal recreation (which is not admitted) would have deferred to the use of the Nursery School Site by the school.
- 16. Any such use for lawful sports and pastimes which took place prior to 2003 (which is not admitted) would have been by force or stealth and cannot qualify towards the 20 year period.
- In short, the Nursery School Site has been unavailable for the exercise of the lawful sports and pastimes alleged during the requisite period.
- In these circumstances, that part of the Application that relates to the Nursery School Site must be dismissed.

# Ground Two

- 19. Without prejudice to grounds one and three, there is insufficient evidence of use of the whole or any part of the Nursery School Site for lawful sports and pastimes at any time to amount to evidence of use by a "significant number of" the inhabitants of any locality (or neighbourhood within a locality), or to carry the outward appearance of use as a TVG, or to suggest to a reasonable landowner that a continuous right of enjoyment as a TVG was being asserted.
- Only ten witnesses (including the Applicant) have submitted evidence as to use of the Land as a whole. For the reasons given above, it must be right

that any suggested use of the Land prior to May 2003 is a reference to the Playing Field Site and not the Nursery School Site.

### Ground Three

21. Without prejudice to grounds one and two, the Applicant has failed to show that the activities relied upon have been undertaken for the minimum period of twenty years. The Nursery School Site has only been grassed over since in or around May 2003.

### Generally

 HBC reserves the right to add or to expand upon the above grounds of objection as may be appropriate.

### GROUNDS OF OBJECTION: THE SPENSER GROVE SITE

### Generally

- 23. The Spenser Grove Site is a recently completed (May 2009) carriageway extension whereby HBC has added a parking facility at the top end of Spenser Grove. An overhead plan at Appendix 1 shows the extent and nature of the extension.
- 24. Any use of the Spenser Grove Site prior to May 2009 for recreational activities (which is not admitted) was by way of permission (and accordingly "not as of right") which HBC was entitled to revoke at anytime.
- 25. The Applicant has otherwise failed to establish that the necessary criteria have been met in relation to the Spenser Grove Site. In particular, there is insufficient evidence of use of the whole or any part of the Spenser Grove Site for lawful sports and pastimes at any time to amount to evidence of use by a "significant number of" the inhabitants of any locality (or neighbourhood within a locality), or to carry the outward appearance of use as a TVG, or to suggest to a reasonable landowner that a continuous right of

enjoyment as a TVG was being asserted. Only ten witnesses have submitted evidence as to use of the Land.

- That the access routes adjacent to the Land should not be registered is consistent with the Application itself.
- HBC reserves the right to add or to expand upon the above grounds of objection as may be appropriate.

### CONCLUSIONS

- 28. For the reasons set out in this Statement of Objections, it is submitted that the Registration Authority may deal with the matter summarily and without a local inquiry.
- 29. In the circumstances, it is submitted that:
  - (i) Upon receipt of a subsequent application by HBC under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006 to register the Playing Field School Site, the Registration Authority should dismiss summarily that part of the Application that relates to the Playing Field Site. It is more appropriate that registration be dealt with under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006.
  - (ii) The application in respect of the Nursery School Site and the Spenser Grove Site should be dismissed and the Registration Authority should not register those parts of the Land as a TVG. It is readily apparent from the surrounding circumstances that the Application in respect of the Nursery School Site was only brought in an endeavour to frustrate the proposed development of the Land as a whole for residential development.

30. If, contrary to the above submissions, it is considered that the Application cannot be dismissed outright, the Registration Authority is required to hold a local inquiry so that the claimed exercise of lawful sports and pastimes can be tested.

Signed
(Keith Lucas- Asset & Property Manager)
Dated
Hartlepool Borough Council
Leadbitter Buildings
Stockton Street
Hartlengol

TS24 7NU

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMONS ACT 2006

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> STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

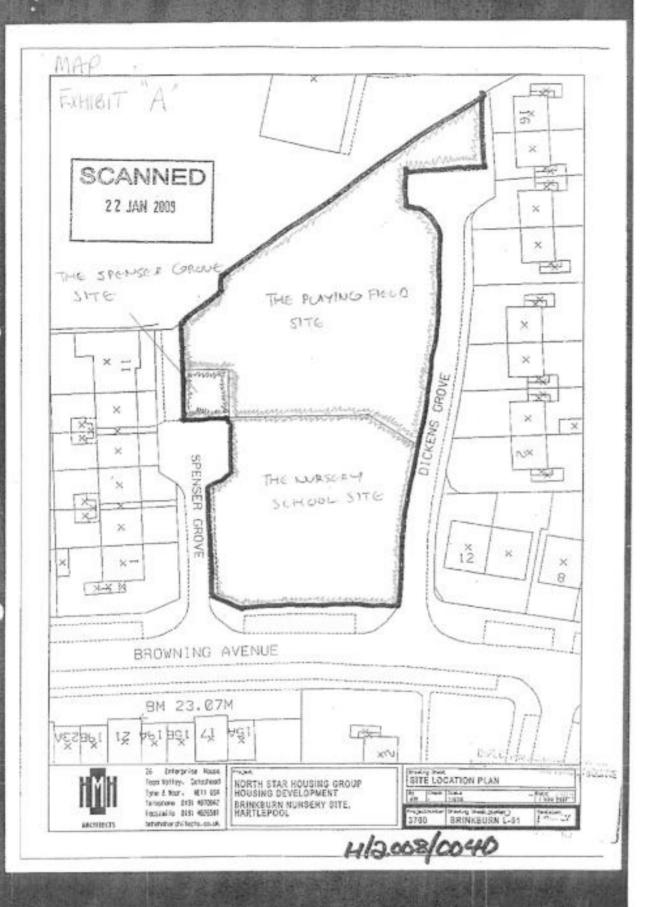
> > Hartlepool Borough Council

Leadbitter Buildings

Stockton Street

Hartlepool

TS24 7NU





# SPENSER GROVE DATE The information shown on this plan is glean without obligation, or versionly. The excurrency thereof so shot be guaranteed. No liability entationers in accopied by hardeness thomas, Council, the agents of the short and appellant of the plant and the vertical and papellant of the plant and the vertical and established on site liabilities any mechanical. View1 SECTION. SCALE

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PROPOSED

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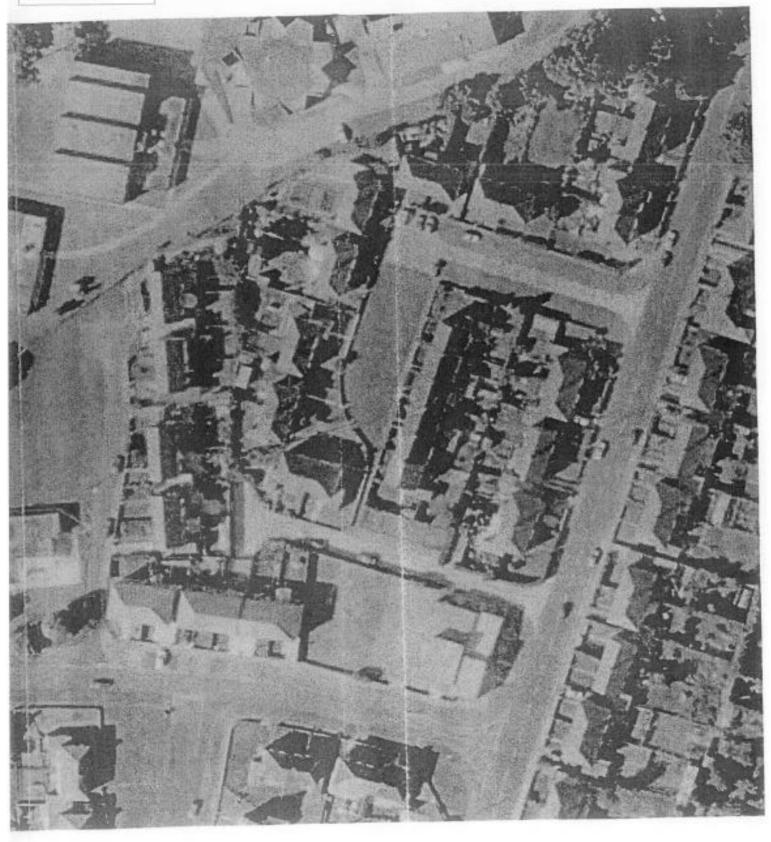
PLAN

Director of Neighbourhood Services Dave Stubbs

# neral.ukp

APPENDIX 2

SCHOOL BUILDING PRIOR TO DEMULTION IN 2003





FORM 44

Commons Act 2006: Section 15

Official stamp of rendicating valid da	egistration authority te of receipt:	Application number:
DEPAR ADULT & COMMUN	TOROUGH COUNCIL	Register unit No(s):
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS		VG number allocated at registration:
	JUL 2009	V9.003
		(CRA to complete only if application is successful)
All applicants show Applicants applying Section 15(1) ena	Ilage Green' and to note the uld complete questions 1–6 a ng for registration under section bles any person to apply to re	e rollowing: and 10-11. on 15(1) of the 2006 Act should, in addition, complete guestions 7-
All applicants show Applicants applying Section 15(1) ena 15(2), (3) or (4) applying	Ilage Green' and to note the uld complete questions 1–6 a ng for registration under section to bles any person to apply to re pply.	and 10–11.  on 15(1) of the 2006 Act should, in addition, complete questions 7— egister land as a green where the criteria for registration in section  nder section 15(8) should, in addition, complete question 9.
All applicants show Applicants applying Section 15(1) ena 15(2), (3) or (4) applying	Ilage Green' and to note the uld complete questions 1–6 a ng for registration under sectional sections and person to apply to repply.  In green for voluntary registration under section	and 10-11.  on 15(1) of the 2006 Act should, in addition, complete questions 7— egister land as a green where the criteria for registration in section  nder section 15(8) should, in addition, complete question 9.

#### Note 2

If there is more than one applicant, list all names. Please use a separate sheet if necessary. State the full title of the organisation if a body corporate or unincorporate.

If question 3 is not completed all correspondence and notices will be sent to the first named applicant.

Note 3

This question should be completed if a solicitor is instructed for the purposes of the application. If so all correspondence and notices will be sent to the person or firm named here.

2. Name and address of the applicant

Name:

HARTLEPOOL SCREWGH CONNCIL

Full postal address: PROPERTY 9-

PROCLUREMENT

BUILDINGS LEADBITTER

STREET

HARTLEPGER 524 7HU

STOCKTON

Postcode

Telephone number.

(incl. national dialling code)

Fax number: (incl. national dialling code)

E-mail address:

Bullen a hartlepoo

3. Name and address of solicitor, if any

Name:

RICHARD

Firm:

HARTLEPOGI SOROUGH COUNCIL

Full postal address:

MUNICIPAL

BUILDINGS

CHURCH STREET

HARTEROUL

Post code TS24 760

Telephone number: (incl. national dialling code)

11429

Fax number.

(incl. national dialling code)

E-mail address:

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Note 4 For further advice on the criteria and qualifying dates for registration please see	4. Basis of application for registration and qualifying criteria  If you are the landowner and are seeking voluntarily to register your land please tick this box and move to question 5.  Application made under section 15(8):				
section 4 of the Guidance Notes.	If the application is made under <b>section 15(1)</b> of the Act, please <u>tick one</u> of the following boxes to indicate which particular subsection and qualifying criterion applies to the case.				
	Section 15(2) applies:				
Section 15(6) enables any period of statutory closure where access to the land is denied to be disregarded in determining the 20	Section 15(3) applies:				
year period.	Section 15(4) applies:				
	If section 15(3) or (4) applies please indicate the date on which you consider that use as of right ended.				
2)	If section 15(6)* applies please indicate the period of statutory closure (if any) which needs to be disregarded.				

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	8.3	3 4	-	- 27

The accompanying map must be at a scale of at least 1:2,500 and show the land by distinctive colouring to enable to it to be clearly identified.

5. Description and particulars of the area of land in respect of which application for registration is made

Name by which usually known:

THE PLANING FIELD SITE ADJOINING SPENSER GROVE, BROWNING AVENUE & DICKENS GROVE.

Location:

SEE ATTACHED PLAN REFERENCE E/9/293.

Only complete if the land is already registered as common land. Shown in colour on the map which is marked and attached to the statutory declaration.

Common land register unit number (if relevant) \*

#### Note 6

It may be possible to indicate the locality of the green by reference to an administrative area, such as a parish or electoral ward, or other area sufficiently defined by name (such as a village or street). If this is not possible a map should be provided on which a locality or neighbourhood is marked clearly.

6. Locality or neighbourhood within a locality in respect of which the application is made

Please show the locality or neighbourhood within the locality to which the claimed green relates, either by writing the administrative area or geographical area by name below, or by attaching a map on which the area is clearly marked:

SPENSER & DICKENS GROVE ARE IN THE RIFT HOUSE AREA OF HARTLEPOUR

Tick here if map attached: E/G /293

	green
Note 7 Applicants should provide a summary of the case for registration here and enclose a separate full statement and all other evidence including any witness statements in support of the application.	
This information is not needed if a landowner is applying to register the land as a groon under section 15(8).	
,	

	l use a separate necessary.	8. Name and address of every person whom to an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of any p be a town or village green	the applicant believes to be art of the land claimed to
referenc number:	s in the register eld by the		
identifie	you should		
needed is applyi the land	mation is not if a landowner ng to register as a green ection 15(8).		
		9. Voluntary registration – declarations of corleaseholder', and of the proprietor of any 'rele	nsent from 'relevant evant charge' over the land
accomp applicati	uch ions that	HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH CIVIC CENTRE VICTORIA ROAD	councie
needed applicati made to land as	nmation is not if an ion is being register the a green under 15(1).	HART LEPOST TS24 8AH	NONE
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S <del>O</del> GUON		10. Supporting documentation	
Note 1 List all s docume accomp	upporting nts and maps anying the ion. If none,	10. Supporting documentation	
Note 1 List all s docume accomp applicate write "no	upporting nts and maps anying the ion. If none,	10. Supporting documentation	

If there are any other matters which should be brought to the
matters which should
OF DIGUING OF OR
attention of the
ragistration authority
(in particular if a
person interested in
the land is expected to
challenge the
application for
registration). Full
details should be given
here or on a separate
sheet if necessary.

Note 12
The application must be signed by each individual applicant, or by the authorised officer of an applicant which is a body corporate or unincorporate.

Date:	22 [6]	C9	*	
Signatures:	The	200	<u> </u>	

### REMINDER TO APPLICANT

You are advised to keep a copy of the application and all associated documentation. Applicants should be aware that signature of the statutory declaration is a sworn statement of truth in presenting the application and accompanying evidence. The making of a false statement for the purposes of this application may render the maker liable to prosecution.

11. Any other information relating to the application

#### Data Protection Act 1998

The application and any representations made cannot be treated as confidential. To determine the application it will be necessary for the registration authority to disclose information received from you to others, which may include other local authorities, Government Departments, public bodies, other organisations and members of the public.

## Statutory Declaration In Support

To be made by the applicant, or by one of the applicants, or by his or their solicitor, or, if the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporate, by its solicitor, or by the person who signed the application.

- <sup>1</sup> Insert full name (and address if not given in the application form).
- L. Ashaeo J. Shittl., 1 solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:-
- <sup>2</sup> Delete and adapt as necessary.
- <sup>3</sup> Insert name if Applicable
- 1.2 I am ((the person (one of the persons) who (has) (have) signed the foregoing application)) ((the solicitor to (the applicant)) (fone of the applicants)).
- 2. The facts set out in the application form are to the best of my knowledge and belief fully and truly stated and I am not aware of any other fact which should be brought to the attention of the registration authority as likely to affect its decision on this application, nor of any document relating to the matter other than those (if any) mentioned in parts 10 and 11 of the application.
- 3. The map now produced as part of this declaration is the map referred to in part 5 of the application.
- <sup>4</sup> Complete only in the case of voluntary registration (strike through if this is not relevant)
- 4. I hereby apply under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006 to register as a green the land indicated on the map and that is in my ownership. I have provided the following necessary declarations of consent:
- (i) a declaration of ownership of the land;
- (ii) a declaration that all necessary consents from the relevant leaseholder or proprietor of any relevant charge over the land have

Conti

Continued

been received and are exhibited with this declaration; or (iii) where no such consents are required, a declaration to that effect.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared by the said

at Smith & Graham Solicatory

this 22 nd day of June 2009.

Signature of Declarant

Before me \*

Signature:

Address:

LYNNE ROBINSON F.INST.L.EX CHURCH SQUARE HARTLEPOOL TS24 7HE

Qualification:

Signature of the statutory declaration is a sworn statement of truth in presenting the application and accompanying evidence.

REMINDER TO OFFICER TAKING DECLARATION:

Please initial all alterations and mark any map as an exhibit

<sup>\*</sup> The statutory declaration must be made before a justice of the peace, practising solicitor, commissioner for oaths or notary public.

ARTIEPOCI 1524 7HE



Graham Frankland B.Eng(HONS) C.Eng M.I.C.E. Head of Procurement. Property & Public Protection Leadbitter Buildings

Stockton Street Hartlepool TS24 7NU

TEL: 01429 266522 FAX: 01429 523899

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