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| **Direction Decision** |
| **by D. M. Young JP BSc (Hons) MPlan MRTPI MIHE** |
| **an Inspector on direction of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** |
| **Decision date: 4 March 2022** |

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| **Ref: FPS/L5240/14D/4**  **Representation by Stephen Davis**  **LB Croydon Council**  **Application for the addition of a bridleway along Hawkhirst Road, Kenley by Hawkhirst Road Ltd.** |
| * The representation is made under Paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (the 1981 Act) seeking a direction to be given to LB Croydon to determine an application for an Order, under Section 53(5) of that Act. |
| * The representation is made by Stephen Davis, dated 12 September 2021. |
| * The certificate under Paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 14 is dated 11 September 2019. |
| * The Council was consulted about your representation on 4 October 2021 and the Council’s response was made on 15 November 2021. |
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Decision

1. The Council is directed to determine the above-mentioned application.

Reasons

1. Authorities are required to investigate applications as soon as is reasonably practicable and, after consulting the relevant district and parish councils, decide whether to make an order on the basis of the evidence discovered. Schedule 14 to the 1981 Act, allows applicants to ask the Secretary of State for a direction following the expiration of 12 months from the date the certificate is served on the surveying authority.
2. The Secretary of State in considering whether, in response to such a request, to direct an authority to determine an application for an order within a specified period, will take into account any statement made by the authority setting out its priorities for bringing and keeping the definitive map up to date, the reasonableness of such priorities, any actions already taken by the authority or expressed intentions of further action on the application in question, the circumstances of the case and any views expressed by the applicant.
3. The application form to add a bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement is dated 11 September 2019. The application was made on the basis of the discovery of documentary and user evidence. The Council state that work on the application is progressing and they expect to be able to make a decision before the end of February 2022.
4. That being the case, I consider it appropriate to allow no more than a further 2 months for a decision to be reached on the application.

**Direction**

1. On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and pursuant to Paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, **I HEREBY** **DIRECT** the London Borough of Croydon to determine the above-mentioned application not later than 2 months from the date of this decision.

D. M. Young

INSPECTOR