



Chief Executive:
Tony Allcock MBE
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Jane Williams,
Communities Group,
Warwickshire County Council
PO Box 43, Shire Hall,
Warwick, CV34 4SX

18th December 2015

Dear Jane,

ARCHERY ROAD, ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA – PROPOSED CHANGE TO LIMITED WAITING RESTRICTION

I write to object robustly to the proposed change to the limited waiting restriction on Archery Road, Royal Leamington Spa. It is my understanding that the proposal is to amend the current restriction of *'4 hours no return 8 hours from 8am- 8pm except permit holders (L5)'* to *'2 hours no return 4 hours from 8am-10pm except permit holders (L5)'*. It is my further understanding that this is to discourage 'discriminate parking by visitors to the bowling club'.

This proposal raises a number of issues that we, as the National Governing Body for the sport of outdoor flat green bowls, would wish to bring to your attention. In doing so, I refer you back to your authority's 'One Organisational Plan for 2014–18', which states that the Council's core purpose is to: *"Develop and sustain a society that looks after its most vulnerable members, delivers appropriate, quality services at the right time, and seeks opportunities for economic growth and innovation."*

Firstly, three of our member clubs – Royal Leamington Spa BC, Home Guard BC and Potterton International BC – use the facilities at Victoria Park in addition to the many members of the public who 'pay and play'. Many of their members are in the older age bracket, may endure difficulty in walking and/or have a number of other disabilities. The proposal, if supported, would impact on their ability to participate in the sport and would certainly be in contravention of your stated aim to look after vulnerable members of society.

I must further add, given that most matches take approximately three hours, the current four hour restriction provides ample time for players to arrive, change, participate and depart whereas the proposed two hour limit would be of very little use to the vast majority of participants.

Secondly, I must also question the statement that there is currently '[in]discriminate parking by visitors to the bowls club'. Parking in the Archery Road area for all users of Victoria Park is limited, with the main alternative to the 'on-street' provision being a facility on the Old Tennis Courts at the end of Archery Road. This is already inadequate to meet the needs of bowlers and other park users (including many parents with young children), and to remove the parking availability on Archery Road itself will impact on all those who use the park – not just the bowlers who appear to have been singled out within the proposal. Bowls England has worked hard with our member clubs and Warwick District Council to alleviate the concerns of residents with regard to available parking, but it would appear that this proposed change would potentially impact on a large number of people – bowlers, park users and residents.

Thirdly, as you may be aware, Bowls England moved all of its operations to the Warwickshire area in 2014 – a move that was supported by Warwick District Council due to the significant economic benefits that this would bring to the area. Our agreement with Warwick District Council includes the hosting of the National Championships annually, plus

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other large national and international events. It was estimated that in that first year local businesses benefited from the presence of bowls to the tune of circa £1.7million and it is likely that a similar figure will have been generated in 2015. Restaurants, accommodation providers and retailers have all benefitted from this relocation to Warwickshire, and many also choose to return for non-bowls reasons. However, should we be unable to source adequate parking for those attending events outside the National Championships, which the proposed change will certainly influence, this will be a great concern to Bowls England and force us to review our future plans when considering host venues. Any such decision would clearly be contrary to your authority's vision to seek opportunities for economic growth.

I trust that you fully understand the negative impact that this proposal will have both on bowlers and other park users, and therefore wish to register this as a formal objection against the planned change. Should you wish to discuss further, I or a colleague would be pleased to meet with you ahead of the final decision.

Yours sincerely

Tony Allcock MBE
Chief Executive
Bowls England

cc. Chris White – MP for Warwick & Leamington
Councillor Izzi Seccombe – Leader of Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Mobbs – Leader of Warwick District Council
Cllr Sue Gallagher – Portfolio Holder for Culture at Warwick District Council
Chris Elliott – Chief Executive of Warwick District Council
Rose Winship – Head of Leisure Services at Warwick District Council
Cynthia Briggs – Royal Leamington Spa BC
Denis Crossfield – Home Guard BC
Richard Weare – Potterton International BC
Ann Doherty and Gareth Willcock – Warwickshire Bowls