

 <b>Executive January 2016</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <b>12</b>
<b>Title</b>	Proposal to change parking regulations on Archery Road, Leamington Spa	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Rose Winship <a href="mailto:Rose.winship@warwickdc.gov.uk">Rose.winship@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>  01926 456223	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	Milverton	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Old Tennis court conversion: Bowls Update Jan 2015 Executive	
<b>Background Papers</b>	None	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	Yes

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Rose Winship
CMT	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt, Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Andrew Jones
Finance	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Cllr Sue Gallagher
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Residents of Archery Road, Royal Leamington Spa Bowling Club, Bowls England, other users of Victoria Park and members of the public are able to respond to the proposals being made by Warwickshire County Council. Consultation deadline 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2016.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

## 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposal that is being made by Warwickshire County Council to change the parking regulations that apply to Archery Road, Leamington Spa. Reasons for a formal objection to these proposals by the Executive are described, including an explanation of the significant impact that the changes would have on a wide range of users of Victoria Park, specifically on the various bowls clubs that use the Victoria Park greens for their matches and club events.

## 2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Executive approves that a formal objection is submitted on behalf of Warwick District Council by the Head of Cultural Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, to the proposal to change the parking regulations on Archery Road, Leamington Spa.

## 3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 Warwickshire County Council have proposed changes to the parking regulations that apply to Archery Road, Leamington Spa as detailed in Appendix 1. The changes would see the maximum stay being reduced from 4 hours to 2 hours, with no return within 4 hours, and with the regulations applying from 8am to 10pm.
- 3.2 Archery Road currently allows a maximum stay of 4 hours with no return for 8 hours and applies from 8am to 8pm only. Archery Road is the only location in the town with a 4 hour limit. These conditions have been in place for many years and were introduced to support the expansion of the bowls activities in Victoria Park at the time of the World Bowls Championships being hosted at the greens in 1997.
- 3.3 A reduction in the maximum stay and extension of the regulations to 10pm would have an impact on bowls activities in Victoria Park. Most bowls matches take approximately 3 hours to complete, and many are then followed by refreshments for those involved in the matches. The greens are the home venue for Royal Leamington Spa Bowling Club (RLSBC), Potterton's Bowling Club, Home Guard Bowling Club, Warwickshire Women's Bowls Association and Bowls England. Matches are played throughout the season from April to September, with RLSBC using their club house on the site for social activities throughout the year.
- 3.4 As members will be aware, Victoria Park greens host the National Bowls Championships for 4 weeks each August. For the duration of the Nationals a formal "road closure" is placed on Archery Road, and all regulations are lifted for the period of the closure. Parking on Archery Road from 8am – 5pm during the Nationals is controlled by security personnel and parking permits allowing parking on Archery Road are issued to residents of Archery Road and neighbouring roads, and officials working at the Nationals.
- 3.5 Whilst the greatest impact will be on bowls activities, there would also be some impact on Victoria Park Community Tennis Club and other users of the park as well as one off events that take place in the park. Visitors would have to find alternative parking if they intended to be in the park for more than 2 hours.

3.6 There is "overflow parking" available in the area at the far end of Archery Road (known as the "old tennis courts") which is used on occasions by bowlers and other park users. This is not a formal car park, is not illuminated, and does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate all those needing to park for longer than 2 hours. In order for the car park to operate effectively it would need to be enforced. This would require investment in the surface, lighting, signage, ticket machines and staff time to visit regularly. Having considered this option as part of the review of the Nationals that was reported to the Executive in January 2015, officers concluded that it is unlikely that the income from this car park would cover the cost of providing the car park and operating it.

3.7 Bowls England have made a formal objection to the proposals (Appendix 2) as have RLSBC, and objections are also anticipated from other clubs based in Victoria Park.

#### 4. **Policy Framework**

4.1 **Policy Framework** – The report does not impact upon the Council's Policy Framework.

4.2 **Fit for the Future** – The report does not impact on Fit for the Future

4.3 **Impact Assessments** – An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken (Appendix 3)

#### 5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 Estimated costs to convert the "old tennis courts" to a formal car park and manage the car park were estimated in the Bowls Review report to the Executive in January 2015 as follows:

Capital expenditure to convert the area to a formal car park	£45,000
Revenue expenditure to manage the car park (per annum)	£ 2,150

For the parking area to achieve a cost neutral position it would have to deliver rates of 45% occupancy 5 days per week. Officers do not consider 45% as a realistic level of continued use.

#### 6. **Risks**

6.1 Should the changes go ahead as proposed by Warwickshire County Council, there would be a significant impact on the members of the bowls clubs listed in paragraph 3.3 and as described in the letter sent on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2015 by Tony Allcock, Chief Executive of Bowls England in opposing the proposals (Appendix 2).

6.2 Objecting to the proposals could cause friction between Warwick District Council and residents of Archery Road and neighbouring streets.

#### 7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 The Executive could choose not to object to the proposals. If the changes go ahead as proposed, there would be a significant impact on local clubs using Victoria Park bowling greens, and on some other users of the park. This could result in a reduction in the use of this first class bowls facility in which the Council have made significant investment over many years.