

Attention of David S Wemyss
Senior Committee Services Officer (Roads Legislation)
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AQ

The Bridge Club,
14 Rubislaw Terrace
Aberdeen

11th May 2010

**Rubislaw Terrace/Queen's Terrace
Proposed Changes in Parking Regulations.**

Current Situation at The Bridge Club.

The Bridge Club has been existence at 14 Rubislaw Terrace since 1933 and currently has a Membership of 284, approximately half of whom are old age pensioners.

In addition there is a thriving Junior Section where up to 80 schoolchildren from local Primary & Secondary schools attend for lessons, which is the envy of Bridge Clubs throughout the country. Three of the Children have in fact represented Scotland at International level and the group have several Scottish Championships under their belts. We therefore have a valuable asset at stake here, which is the envy of Bridge Clubs throughout the Country.

The Club members travel from all over the city & Aberdeenshire to play bridge at the club. They come on weekdays but mainly in the evenings- Monday to Friday. Almost all members arrive by car, sharing where appropriate, as public transport is not an option for the majority of our members because of distance and age. They start to arrive at the Club around 6.30pm and tournaments begin at 7.00 pm, finishing at around 10.30 to 11.00pm when the Club closes.

There has never been any problem whatsoever with parking from 6.30pm, since there are only a handful of residents in Rubislaw Terrace. There are 120 parking places only 20-30 were found to occupied by 6.15 pm, over a recent 7 day period.

Effect of Extending Parking Charges.

The proposed changes in Parking arrangements in Rubislaw Terrace would have a disastrous effect on the survival of the Bridge Club.

By extending the times from 6.00pm to 8.00pm, this would involve our membership in nightly charges of £3.90 each, to park on an empty street, thus more than doubling the cost

of the Bridge game, which currently costs them £2.50 each. Many would vote with their feet, undermining the survival of the club.

Justification for changes.

We understand that this change is being made to satisfy complaints that the Council have received from residents, who were unable to park in their street because of late night visitors to the City Centre. Clearly this is not an issue in Rubislaw Terrace, since there are very few residents, so changes cannot be justified on these grounds and there is no pressure on parking spaces.

If the Council's objective is simply to generate more income from Parking Fees, in the case of Rubislaw Terrace this will be counter-productive. By destroying the viability of The Bridge Club there will be no increased income, as the membership dwindles.

Possible Solution

The ideal solution would be to maintain the status quo, by creating separate Parking Rules for Rubislaw Terrace. (and indeed Queen's Terrace where the same conditions apply) We believe that there are precedents within the City centre for two separate Parking rules being applied within the same Parking Zone, as is the case in Bon Accord Crescent for example so why not in Parking Zone P.

Bridge Club Delegation

As this is an extremely serious issue for our Club, we would request an opportunity to be heard by the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee at their Meeting on Monday 31st May 2010. A delegation led by myself and supported by Club Members Chris Blunt and John Craig would be prepared to address the meeting if required.

Yours sincerely

Gilbert W Reid
Bridge Club President