

My Ref:
Your Ref:

Date: 19 February 2013

Dear

As a user of the council's bowling facilities I write to inform you of the proposed change to the seasonal permit fee from 1st April 2013.

The council has had to make substantial budget savings and subsequent changes to many of its services. Very difficult decisions have already had to be taken in order to meet a significant reduction in budget and this has been exacerbated by the need to find a further £30m budget saving over the next two years. To help meet these savings the council has had to look at those services which are significantly subsidised and this includes bowling provision where green fees do not meet the cost of providing the service. To help reduce the cost of providing this service it is proposed that charges are increased as outlined below.

DESCRIPTION	Current Charge (£)	Proposed Charge (£)
Parks – Bowls Seasonal Permit (Club Members Only)	16.40	50.00

I appreciate that this is unwelcome news particularly in the current financial climate but I trust you agree that the proposed fee still offers excellent value for money and that you continue to use the service.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Local Environmental Services • Strategic Director John Robinson



The Government Standard

At this stage we do not know what further budget reductions may be imposed on the council and the proposed increase in charge will help support the viability of bowling provision in the borough in the future.

If you have any queries about the contents of this letter, please contact me on (0191) 4337000. You can also contact me by e-mail at customerservices@gateshead.gov.uk or by fax (0191) 4781138.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PH' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Philip Hindmarsh
Technical & Service Development Manager
Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance
Local Environmental Services