

Council
24/September2025



COTSWOLD
District Council

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 24 September 2025

Members present:

Mark Harris (Chair)

Gina Blomefield

Nick Bridges

Patrick Coleman

David Cunningham

Tony Dale

Mike Evemy

David Fowles

Paul Hodgkinson

Nikki Ind

Angus Jenkinson

Julia Judd

Juliet Layton

Andrew Maclean

Mike McKeown

Dilys Neill

Andrea Pellegram

Nigel Robbins

Tony Slater

Tom Stowe

Jeremy Theyer

Clare Turner

Michael Vann

Jon Wareing

Ian Watson

Len Wilkins

Tristan Wilkinson

Officers present:

Jane Portman, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services

Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer)

Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer

Tyler Jardine, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

Kira Thompson, Election and Democratic Services Support Assistant

Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant and Deputy Section 151 Officer

Joseph Walker, Head of Economic Development and Communities

36 Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillor Clare Bloomer, Councillor Ray Brassington, Councillor Laura Hall-Wilson, Councillor Joe Harris, Councillor Helene Mansilla and Councillor Lisa Spivey.

37 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

Council considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 July 2025.
A wording error was identified in the response to Councillor Gina Blomefield's question from the previous meeting.

Councillor Juliet Layton proposed the approval of the amended minutes, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Stowe, put to the vote and agreed by Council.

RESOLVED that the amended minutes of Full Council 16 July 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Voting record:

For 21, Against 0, Abstentions 6

To APPROVE the minutes of Full Council 16 July 2025 (Resolution)		
For	Gina Blomefield, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Every, David Fowles, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	21
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	Andrew Maclean, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Nigel Robbins, Clare Turner and Jon Wareing	6
Carried		

39 Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive

Chair's Announcements

The Chair highlighted the success of both the Phoenix Festival, which welcomed over 22,000 people and the Orpheus Festival, noting the value of such events in strengthening community life. He thanked volunteers, noted Cotswold Districts Council's funding had enabled inclusion and community pride, and suggested similar events be supported further north in the District.

The Leader welcomed Tyler Jardine, the new Trainee Democratic Services Officer, and wished him a long and successful career at Cotswold District Council.

Leaders Announcements

The Leader congratulated two local winners of the BBC Gloucestershire Make a Difference Awards.

Council

24/September2025

Ed Simpson, a 16-year-old from Cirencester who had raised over £100,000 for charity while undergoing treatment for leukaemia, had won the Young Hero Award. Students from the National Star College received the Green Award for creating a hedgehog-friendly campus.

The Leader reminded Members of the following events:

- A planning enforcement briefing was planned for Monday 29 September. The briefing would update members on enforcement issues, discuss challenges, and aimed to improve communication between members and officers.
- An online Local Government Organisation (LGR) briefing on 14 October. This briefing was in preparation for the Council discussion in November. Members were reminded that the Cabinet would formally submit the Council's response after the November discussion.
- An All-Member briefing on the Local Plan update scheduled for 7 October, ahead of the Regulation 18 consultation documents being considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 October and Cabinet on 16 October. The public consultation was expected to start in early November.

40 Public Questions

There were three public questions.

Question 1

Nicola Charleswaith, a resident, raised concerns about ongoing rat infestations at their newly purchased home. They reported that, despite notifying the Senior Environmental Officer and Health Officer on 12 September no progress report had been received. The infestation had caused damage to electrical wiring, leading to power loss, and required multiple pest control interventions. The resident highlighted health hazards, property damage, personal disruption, and the impact on their family, and requested clarity on what long-term preventative measures would be enforced.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning shared the feedback obtained from officers.

Following the resident's concerns, the Officer had visited the property, confirmed it had been boarded up, and contacted the property owner's business address but received no response. They planned to serve a "prevention of damage by pests" notice if no satisfactory action was taken. Further, the officer shared recent correspondence with the neighbouring property owner, who expressed surprise at the infestation and indicated they would engage a pest control firm to investigate. The officer confirmed that the issue remained open and would continue to be pursued due to its unacceptable nature.

Question 2

A resident of Middle Duntisbourne, Valerie Dyson reported that, since the refuse-collection reorganisation in June 2024, black-bin collections had been unreliable, with

Council

24/September2025

roughly one in three missed. As collections were scheduled for Fridays, uncollected bins often remained on the roadside over the weekend, affecting the appearance of the hamlet.

The resident understood that the contractor, Ubico, lacked sufficient small vehicles for the area's narrow lanes, relying on a single truck that frequently broke down. Although the Council had been informed, it was reported that no replacement vehicles had been purchased. Missed collections could not be logged online because the issue was already recorded.

The resident noted that the 2024–25 draft financial statements showed an unspent vehicle-replacement allocation and that the missed-bin rate was 170 per thousand against a target of 80. They therefore asked why this statutory service was performing so poorly, why necessary vehicle investment had not been made, and why other spending appeared to take priority.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services acknowledged ongoing issues with Friday bin collections, caused by vehicle breakdowns, insufficient crews, and reliance on agency staff. A new Friday service round will soon be implemented, moving some collections to Wednesday. Vehicle replacement and refurbishment plans were underway. Improvements to communication with residents, including a future app, were being developed. Smaller vehicles suitable for narrow lanes were being considered.

Question 3

Councillor Ben Eddolls, Member for Stow on the Wold Town Council, raised concerns about the poor condition of public toilets in Stow on the Wold, describing them as frequently dirty and inadequate for visitor numbers. Complaints had been received from the public highlighting issues with cleanliness, functionality, and odour.

The Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience acknowledged the seriousness of public toilet standards, noting that users should expect clean facilities. They confirmed raising previous concerns with officers and the contractor, and that toilets were currently cleaned three times a day. While visitor numbers during the summer made maintaining cleanliness challenging, the Cabinet Member emphasised the need to review practices, improve standards, and follow up with officers.

41 Member Questions

Members' written questions, written responses, supplementary questions and supplementary responses can be found in Annex A attached.

18:41- Councillor David Fowles left the meeting and did not return.

42 Corporate Plan 2024-2028 Update

The purpose of the report was to seek Council adoption of a refreshed Corporate Plan for the period 2025 through to 2028.

The report was introduced by Councillor Mike Every, Leader of the Council.

The Council had updated its priorities to reflect changing national and local contexts, including the proposed Local Government Reorganisation and the new Local Plan for the district. A new priority, "Planning for the Future," was added to guide sustainable development, housing, and transport, acknowledging that the Council may not exist in three years.

Other priorities included maintaining high-quality, reliable services amid uncertainty; tackling the climate emergency by reducing emissions, promoting biodiversity, and greening operations; delivering affordable and suitable housing while addressing empty homes and homelessness; and supporting a resilient local economy, including high streets, the visitor economy, and sustainable business growth.

Councillor Cunningham asked the Leader to clarify the differences between the updated corporate plan and the previous version, noting that they seemed very similar. The Leader explained that the last plan had dated from January 2024 and that the new version removed some previously delivered items while introducing new priorities, including "Planning for the Future." He highlighted that the updated plan provided clear direction for officers, assigned accountability to named Members, and included achievable delivery dates, ensuring it was both practical and actionable.

Councillor Layton seconded the report and reserved the right to speak.

The Chair then moved to the debate.

Members of the Conservative Group raised concerns that the Corporate Plan appeared uninspiring, underwhelming and rushed whilst not showing how outcomes would be measured to ensure success.

The Cabinet Member for Health, Cultures and Visitor Experiences highlighted the two key areas of his portfolio, the Creative Cotswolds and the Community Safety Partnership which were claimed to be inspirational in their delivery.

Members agreed that housing and community resilience was key to responding to the climate emergency and urged the Council to confirm that the registered housing providers were planning on updating older housing across the district.

Councillor McKeown, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital, confirmed that the figures included in the Corporate Plan reflected the reduction in CO₂ of Cotswold District Council activities.

A Member stressed that housing alone does not build communities and called for better follow-through on infrastructure, environmental issues, and unfinished

Council

24/September2025

developments, emphasising the importance of the inclusion of "Planning for the Future" in the Corporate Plan.

Councillor Layton rose to second the resolutions and noted that the document served both to set aims and priorities for councillors and, importantly, to ensure officers were clear on them. The Local Plan was highlighted as central to much of the Council's work, underpinning areas such as climate change, housing, registered providers, and community support.

The Chair invited Councillor Mike Every to sum up. It was noted that keeping staff informed and engaged during the LGR process would be essential to maintaining continuity of services. It was also highlighted that the Local Plan would play a key role in shaping the District's future, with an emphasis on building sustainable communities rather than solely increasing housing provision.

Voting record

For – 19, Against – 0, Abstain - 6

Councillor Len Wilkins and Councillor David Fowles did not vote.

To APPROVE the recommendations and adopt the Corporate Plan 2025 - 2028 (Resolution)		
For	Gina Blomefield, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Every, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Nigel Robbins, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson and Tristan Wilkinson	19
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	David Cunningham, Julia Judd, Andrew Maclean, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe and Jeremy Theyer	6
Carried		

43 Treasury Management Outturn

The purpose of the report was to receive and discuss details of the Council's treasury management performance for the period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The report was introduced by Councillor Patrick Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance, who made the following points arising from consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee.

- The Audit and Governance Committee commended the 2024–25 Treasury Management Outturn Report, confirming that activities aligned with the

Council

24/September2025

approved strategy, prudential indicators, and statutory guidance, with no breaches identified.

- The Committee had identified the Council's prudent approach to maintaining sufficient internal cash balances and emphasised the continued focus on investment security and liquidity amid market volatility.
- It was acknowledged that the Council was in a stronger financial position than many other authorities, with resources carefully and wisely invested in pooled funds under sound professional advice.
- The Audit and Governance Committee suggested that future reports include clearer information on long-term investment performance expectations.

The recommendations were seconded by Councillor Nigel Robbins. He noted that investment returns were higher than expected, at £1.6 million against a forecast of £1.2 million, due to delayed capital spending and stronger yields.

19:31 Councillor Tony Slater left the Chamber and did not return.

The Chair then moved to the debate.

A question was raised regarding the approval of any future borrowing by the Council and whether the decision would come before Council or Cabinet. The Chief Accountant and Deputy S151 Officer would clarify the value which determined which body would action the request.

A Member observed that investment returns appeared broadly in line with service cost inflation, suggesting the Council had maintained the real value of its investments. The Deputy S151 Officer confirmed this was broadly correct, noting an average return of 4.6%, with overall costs rising by slightly less, resulting in a positive position overall.

Voting record:

For – 25, Against – 0, Abstain - 0

Councillors Tony Slater and David Fowles did not vote having left the meeting.

To APPROVE the treasury management outturn report 2024/25 (Resolution)		
For	Gina Blomefield, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evemy, Mark Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Nigel Robbins, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins	25
Against	None	0
Conflict Of Interests	None	0
Abstain	None	0
Carried		

Council
24/September2025

44 Notice of Motions

No motions were received.

45 Next meeting

The next Council meeting was 26 November 2025 at 2pm.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.40 pm

Chair

(END)



Responses to Member Questions for Council – 24 September 2025

#	Questioner	Question	Cabinet Member	Response
1	Cllr Dilys Neill	I have often raised concerns about the number of long-term empty properties across the district and in my own ward in particular (120) which I consider to be scandalous. The question I would like to ask today is about two specific properties, the Old Funeral Directors in Well Lane and the adjacent house, Shepherd's Cottage which are in the same ownership. These properties have been empty for over ten years and are in a state of disrepair and continuing to deteriorate. They have both been broken into and littered empty alcohol cans suggest that they may have been used for	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	With regards to Revenues (Council Tax/Business Rates) the owners who are liable are meeting their legal obligation to pay all the associated charges raised. Whether this be for Business Rates or for Council Tax with the additional premium due to it being considered a Long-Term Empty Property. This means we are not required to take additional debt recovery steps, such as a Charging Order or Forced Sale to recover any debt. As confirmed on the 12 th of September 2025, the Empty Homes Officer has referred the matter to the Principal Environmental Health Officer due to the condition of the property and has requested that ERS attend the property at the earliest opportunity. The Council served notices to board up the properties and carried out works in default to make the properties secure. The costs of the works are to be recovered from the owner. In spite of much correspondence with the landowner, no engagement is forthcoming. The service is currently investigating further complaints relating to the presence of pests. If found to be necessary, the Council will take action in line with the adopted enforcement policy. The issue of houses being empty is being considered in the development of a private sector housing strategy. Commercial properties are outside the remit of the Housing Team.



		<p>under-age drinking and possibly drug dealing. Windows have been broken with glass on the ground outside. Both properties have been repeatedly boarded up and then broken into. They are an eyesore in Stow and have attracted complaints from many residents. The latest concern is that they are infested with rats which are getting into the roof space of the house to which the properties are attached. The owner of the adjacent house has employed a pest control officer who is unable to gain access to the empty properties and so the rats are still present, causing a nuisance and health hazard. CDC know who owns the property, but officers seem unable to take action. What</p>		
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		can the council do about this longstanding and worsening problem?		
1a	Cllr Dilys Neill	SUPPLEMENTARY: Continuation of previous question, seeking concrete action(s)	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Councillor Layton advised that investigations would continue, and the property owner would be contacted about the ongoing problem. It was also suggested that the Environmental Health Agency might be involved.
2	Cllr Tom Stowe	Does the council monitor and record the number of Social Houses sold on the open market by Housing associations in the district?	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Private Registered Providers of Social Housing (RP's) are required by section 176 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, to notify the Regulator of Social Housing (the regulator) about any disposal of a dwelling that is social housing. RPs are not obligated to notify the Local Authority. Some of our RP Partners do advise us, as a matter of courtesy, when they are planning a sale of an affordable dwelling.
2a	Cllr Tom Stowe	SUPPLEMENTARY: Private selling of affordable/social houses – Member notes potential net reduction in supply due to sales to private owners and	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for	Councillor Layton committed to writing to all registered providers across the district requesting that they advise CDC of any disposals. It was reiterated that Registered Providers are not required by law to notify local authorities.



		the lack of building replacements. Member requests the councillor commit to "writing to all registered providers across the district requesting that they advise CDC of any disposals"	Housing and Planning	
3	Cllr David Fowles	The current administration has frequently stated its commitment to building affordable houses and has appointed a very experienced officer to identify sites. Please could you confirm how many sites have been identified, how many houses these sites could deliver and if any of these sites have progressed to planning applications?	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	<p>The delivery of Affordable Homes is being influenced in a number of ways.</p> <p><u>Strategic Sites</u> CDC Officers are considering if there are suitable locations where strategic development may be appropriate.</p> <p><u>Open Market Housing Development</u> The most common route for Affordable Housing delivery is via Open Market Housing Development providing a proportionate quantity of Affordable Homes. As part of the Local Plan Update, officers will be reviewing opportunities to allocate additional sites as suitable for Residential Development.</p> <p><u>Affordable Homes Delivery via smaller/Rural Exception Sites</u> A Pipeline of Affordable Housing led sites is being developed which may be suitable for delivery. To date 8 potential sites have been identified which are at various stages of feasibility/pre-planning review.</p>



				The sites identified to date may have the potential to deliver up to 100 Affordable Homes.
4	Cllr Tom Stowe	<p>At Full Council in November 2022, I proposed a motion on the "Provision of Community Public Access Defibrillators on New Developments". This motion was passed unanimously, and officers began work incorporating new policies into the local plan. Policy SD4.3 – relating to the provision of defibrillators on new developments - was included in the draft local plan update.</p> <p>Given the current situation with the Cotswold Local Plan and the work now being carried out to develop a new plan, please can you confirm that the Council remains committed to retaining these</p>	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	<p>The draft Health and Wellbeing policy includes provision for community public access defibrillators on new developments, and this will be put forward in the Regulation 19 Plan.</p> <p>https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/gdspmaj4/c2-1-2-draft-policies-with-tracked-changes.pdf</p> <p>Policy SD4: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> <p>"3. Major development proposals will also be required to install sufficient, community public access defibrillator(s) (CPADs) for the development, where there is currently no existing coverage, so that no part of the development is further than 400m away from a safe, walkable access to a defibrillator as illustrated by the latest public access defibrillator location mapping"</p>



		policies in the new Local Plan?		
5	Cllr David Fowles	For several years I have monitored the use of the Cirencester Rugby Club car park. As I recall it cost over £300k to convert, since then it appears to have had little or no use. Could you confirm the occupancy levels and income that CDC derives from this car park?	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience	<p>The income to date from permits as this location is £17,124. There are 18 live permits as of 16 September 2025.</p> <p>As Cllr Fowles will recall, the decision to fund the redevelopment of this car park was taken by the previous administration prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was done to provide decant parking during the development of a multi-storey car park at the Waterloo – a project which has not been pursued. The demand for season tickets at the car park has therefore been much lower than was anticipated when that decision was taken.</p> <p>We have encouraged season ticket holders to use the car park by charging considerably less for season tickets in the Whiteway than in our town centre car parks.</p>
6	Cllr Len Wilkins	Bourton-on-the-Water has been overwhelmed by tourists this year. The superb weather has encouraged them to stay until late with many remaining in Bourton until 9pm and 10pm. Bourton Parish Council has written to CDC some weeks ago	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience	<p>The public toilets have summer opening times and winter opening times.</p> <p>During the summer, Church rooms is open from 8am to 6pm and Rissington Road is open from 8am to 8pm.</p> <p>We will be bringing forward a new Parking Strategy to November's Cabinet which will include consideration of charging periods.</p>



		requesting that public toilets stay open later and suggesting that car parking fees are charged beyond the current 6pm deadline. It is still awaiting a reply. Is there any information I can give them?		
7	Cllr Gina Blomefield	There are many areas across the Cotswold District where the current sewage systems are at or near full capacity. With the likely increase in new development in the coming years, please can you confirm that the concerns of local communities raised during the planning application process will be given due consideration and robust conditions will be applied to ensure local sewage networks are able to cope with the	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	<p>Wastewater infrastructure is a material planning consideration, and any representations made by local communities during the planning application process will be fully considered by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Where there is potential for foul water discharge into a watercourse, this is a material issue. In such cases, the LPA can attach planning conditions requiring infrastructure upgrades to be delivered prior to the occupation of all or part of a development. This is generally discussed with the utility provider who will provide details of the existing capacity, and a condition will often be sufficient to ensure appropriate measures are in place to prevent pollution and protect water quality.</p> <p>It is important to note that the LPA assesses applications within the framework of national and local planning policy. Broader infrastructure investment decisions fall under the remit of utility providers and are outside the direct control of the planning process. Under the Water Industry Act 1991, wastewater utilities such as Thames Water have a</p>



		increased demand on their systems?		statutory duty to connect developments to the existing network. These connections are typically arranged directly between the developer and the utility provider, rather than through the planning system.
7a	Cllr Gina Blomefield	SUPPLEMENTARY: What is the most appropriate way for members of the public to notify the Planning team of issues with sewage/waterworks, or provide evidence of such?	Cllr Juliet Layton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning	Councillor Layton advised that local groups are in place to monitor and test the matter, with findings reported back to CDC. However, it was noted that Planning may be a less appropriate recipient for such notifications than the relevant water provider or local developer. The Councillor confirmed that they would investigate the available options and provide further information in due course.
8	Cllr Laura Hall-Wilson	At the last meeting of Full Council I enquired about the process for distributing funds from UKSPF and the allocation to Tetbury through the Towns Centre Initiative being strange because there were no terms of reference for the initiative and the money was essentially being awarded by CDC to itself.	Cllr Tristan Wilkinson, Cabinet Member for Economy and Council Transformation	The funds were awarded to allow the Council to procure expertise to support three town centres where vacancy rates are higher than the district average, with the support of the local town councils and business groups. I'm happy to report that we're in the process of appointing the successful bidder. In terms of spend, the project will review local circumstances, and liaising with local partners, identify appropriate solutions. Until the work is completed, we do not know what the consultant's recommendations will be. Some may simply require officer or partner time. Where recommendations come with a cost, funding will need to be identified by the partners involved



		Is there any update on the progress of this Town Centre initiative and any detail as to what the money allocated is likely to be spent on?		
9	Cllr Jon Wareing	<p>Denying the existence of a problem is a well understood tactic to avoid having to develop a solution for it. This is why it was pivotal that in July 2019 Cotswold District Council declared a climate emergency. CDC's response to this meant the Council committed to a range of activities including taking leadership in developing a strategy to address the emergency.</p> <p>Would the Leader of the Council agree with me and the Cabinet Member for Health, Culture and Visitor Experience, that we face</p>	Cllr Mike Every, Leader of the Council	<p>The Cotswolds is one of England's most iconic and internationally recognised destination brands. The region offers year-round appeal, with immersive experiences in food, drink, arts, cultural events and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>The visitor economy is a cornerstone of CDC's prosperity, generating £359 million in direct visitor spend and supporting more than 4,650 FTE jobs - 16% of employment in the Cotswold District.</p> <p>However, alongside the huge economic benefits there is no denying that the volume of visitors (over five million day-visitors to the Cotswold District) puts significant pressure on our infrastructure and can cause serious inconvenience to local residents. This is particularly acute in peak season, especially in good weather, as the vast majority of tourists are day visitors. This issue is not unique to Bourton-on-the-Water or the Cotswolds – most popular holiday destinations face this type of problem. Nor is this problem completely new - the Cotswolds has been a popular destination for decades - although since the Covid-</p>



	<p>another crisis in our District whereby Bourton-on-the-Water, and other iconic locations within the District, are suffering the burden of overtourism as defined by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation “the impact of tourism on a destination, or parts thereof, that excessively influences perceived quality of life of citizens and/or quality of visitors experiences in a negative way.”?</p> <p>Would the Leader also therefore commit that the Council ensures that, going forward, the work of the Council acknowledge this crisis and demonstrates its support, through sustainable tourism approaches, to reverse the degradation of the social, economic and</p>	<p>19 pandemic started in 2020 we have seen an increasing focus on particular must-see locations of which Bourton appears to be one.</p> <p>The Council does not have the responsibility nor the powers to resolve the issues created by volume tourism on its own. We don’t have the power to restrict movements of people, nor to determine what business operates where. However, we want to help our communities to minimise the negative consequences of large numbers of visitors and maximise the benefit to the economy that visitors can bring.</p> <p>Through the additional charge on parking at Rissington Road Car Park, known as the Tourism Levy, we are raising funds to help the village manage the number of visitors it receives. We have used funds from this levy to pay for a village warden, look after the village green and pay for more parking enforcement to name just three projects funded by the levy.</p> <p>Cotswolds Tourism, jointly employed with West Oxfordshire, works closely with other local authorities, Cotswold National Landscape and tourism businesses to try to spread the visitor footprint out from the hotspots, and works to encourage sustainable tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It does not actively encourage new day visits to our villages – working on the principle that most regular day visitors do not interact with websites or social media channels anyway – its
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		<p>natural environments of these special localities that define the unique character of the District?</p> <p>By acknowledging the reality of overtourism for thousands of residents in the District you will give impetus for change, faith that local politicians do listen and optimism for restoring balance and harmony in our communities.</p>		<p>focus is on encouraging overnight stays and visits to attractions. The service does not promote Bourton itself – only visitor attractions in the village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service encourages journalists and visitors to consider visiting other towns and villages, particularly at peak times • It only supplying media requests with out of season images of Bourton • It encourages partners and businesses to share messaging that Bourton can be very busy at peak times and people should visit at less busy times or ideally, for the best experience, stay overnight • It promotes local minibus tours that will pick up from accommodation or from Moreton railway station • It discourages use of the 'Venice of the Cotswolds' tag line • It encourages visitors to come by public transport • It promotes walks to and from Bourton including a circular walk out of the village centre <p>I recognise that the negative impacts of tourism in Bourton have increased this year, particularly as we have had a very sunny summer. I want our officers to continue to work with the community in Bourton to help to find solutions to the problems that residents face living their daily lives in the village.</p>
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COTSWOLD
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