



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE DECISION MEETING – 26 OCTOBER 2023
Subject	BORTON ON THE WATER TOURISM LEVY
Wards affected	Bourton Village and Bourton Vale
Accountable member	Councillor Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance Email: mike.evemy@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jon Dearing, Assistant Director for Resident Services Email: jon.dearing@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	Jon Dearing, Assistant Director for Resident Services Email: jon.dearing@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To make recommendations following the 2023 consultation on the use of funds collected from the Rissington Road Car Parking Tourism Levy in Bourton-on-the-Water.
Annexes	Annex A – Results from the 2023 Public Consultation, Annex B – Update on delivery and expenditure in relation to projects agreed in previous years, Annex C – Consultation feedback – full written comments.
Recommendation(s)	That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the funding for the Village Warden identified in 3.42. Approve the expenditure proposals detailed in paragraph 3.6, and3. Delegate authority to approve any additional expenditure, according to the conditions set out in paragraph 4.2, to the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.
Corporate priorities	Deliver the highest standard of service
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, Ward Member, County Councillor, Parish



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	Council, County Highways Service and conducted a Public Consultation.
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In Bourton on the Water the Council added a 50p Car Parking Tourism Levy on parking charges at its Rissington Road car park in order to fund schemes that will help the village manage the high volumes of visitors that it receives.
- 1.2 Following a public consultation, and consultation with the Parish Council, this report recommends the use of those funds in relation to several projects.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2022/23, including the carry-over from 2021/22 the Tourism Levy funding totalled £80,656. The cost of the Village Warden (£15,768) was deducted, leaving £64,888. Following a four-week Public Consultation, at a Portfolio Holder Meeting on 14th December 2022, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance agreed the following 2022/23 expenditure:
 - I. £9,250 for additional Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) hours for 2022/23 and 2023/24,
 - II. £12,000 for three (double) dropped kerbs,
 - III. £15,000 for a Traffic Regulation Order to limit parking on residential streets,
 - IV. £7,480 for a refresh of the Village Green for 2022/23 and 2023/24,
 - V. £1,890 for the installation of cobbles along the riverbank,
 - VI. £500 as a project budget for the Village Warden, and
 - VII. £2,343 for additional CEO hours, during the period that the Rissington Road Car Park was closed for refurbishment.
- 2.2 These actions had a total cost of £48,463. In April 2023 the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer agreed further expenditure of £6,690 for an extension to project 5 above; and in June 2023 Cabinet agreed a further £6,000 to extend the District Council's grant funding of the Visitor Information Centre in Bourton on the Water to December 2023. This left a balance to carry over to 2023/24 of £3,735.
- 2.3 An update on the delivery and expenditure in relation to projects and activities agreed in previous years can be found at Annex B.

3. MAIN POINTS

- 3.1 The remaining budget from 2022/23 (£3,735) has been carried over to 2023/24. The receipts for the whole of 2023/24 are projected to be circa £100,000.
- 3.2 Following consultation with the Parish Council, ten potential project ideas were established in July 2023.
- 3.3 The District Council ran a four-week public consultation which ended on 16 September 2023. There were 339 respondents and 238 of those took the opportunity to leave a



written comment (see Annex C for the comments). The most common comments (45%) were around parking and traffic management; issues that were addressed within the ten proposed projects for 2023/24 and the (already agreed but not yet delivered) 2022/23 Traffic Regulation Order project.

- 3.4** There is agreement between the Deputy Leader and Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council to continue with the Village Warden post and the £500 Village Warden Project fund, at a total cost of £18,851, so this was not included in the public consultation.
- 3.5** In addition to the continued provision of a Village Warden and the 2023/24 expenditure (agreed from the 2022/23 budget) for the additional CEO hours and Village Green refresh, the consultation results put the ten proposed projects in the following priority order:
- 3.5.1** Install planters and seating around trees in the area in front of the Willow Public House and Restaurant, to prevent vehicles parking,
- 3.5.2** Resurfacing of the path at Periwinkle Bank (alongside Willoughby Place, between Station Road and Cemetery Lane).
- 3.5.3** Repairs and cobbling along the riverbank,
- 3.5.4** Planting along the edge of Clapton Row Green, to prevent parking,
- 3.5.5** Provision of further dropped kerbs to aid access,
- 3.5.6** Installation of a footpath along the western edge of the Village Green, along Sherbourne Street (adjacent to the War Memorial),
- 3.5.7** Make the Bus Stop information more accessible for wheelchair users,
- 3.5.8** A contribution to a fund for improving the area around the Willow tree and the War Memorial, on the Village Green,
- 3.5.9** Repositioning of the riverside benches, installing hard base to ease access for wheelchair users, and
- 3.5.10** Extension of the riverbank railings, to prevent vehicles reversing into street furniture.
- 3.6** Given that the top three projects require significant funds and there is a high likelihood of the required spending exceeding the budgeted amounts, the proposed approach is to approve those (top three) and convene at least one other 2023/24 Decision Making Meeting to allocate the remaining funds. These further meetings may include consideration of using some of the funds to undertake street works and changes to Traffic Regulations to accommodate coaches following the expected removal of the current dedicated coach parking on 31 December 2023. Recommendation 1 is therefore proposing agreement of the following three projects and expenditure based on initial quotes obtained by the Parish Council:
- a. £40,000 to install planters and seating around the trees in the area of the Willow Public House and Restaurant, to enhance the area and prevent vehicles from parking,
 - b. £10,000 to resurface the path at Periwinkle Bank (alongside Willoughby Place, between Station Road and Cemetery Lane), and



- c. £5,000 for repairs and cobbling along the riverbank.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The financial implications are detailed within the body of the report. However, by way of a summary:

- Carry over from 2021/22 was £3,735,
- Projected 2023/24 receipts are £100,000,
- Provision of a Village Warden (and Project Budget) in 2023/24 will be £18,851, therefore
- The 2023/24 budget for allocation to projects is expected to be around **£85,000**.

4.2 As costs can fluctuate during a project's delivery, it is further recommended that additional expenditure be delegated to the District Council's Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance. This delegation will only relate to items detailed in paragraphs 3.5.1, 3.5.2 and 3.5.3.

4.3 If the cost of the three funded projects does not exceed the total budget for 2023/24, a further Decision Making Meeting or Meetings may need to be convened to agree expenditure in relation to other projects.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The allocation of funding to projects or services in and around Bourton on the Water does not attract any significant risks.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

7.1 There are no unacceptable adverse effects on the protected characteristics covered by the Equalities Act.

8. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There is no negative impact associated with these recommendations.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

(END)