

12th March 2024

Parish Council votes to move ahead with coach restrictions to ensure public safety

At last week's Parish Council meeting councillors voted in favour of a motion to restrict coaches from central routes in Bourton-on-the-Water by way of Traffic Regulation Order(s). This was in the absence of any managed provision for coach parking and in the interests of the health and safety of residents and visitors, and to improve traffic flow for all. The main centre of the village has had restrictions for coaches for some years excluding them from the roads leading to the Village Green, and these new restrictions would extend that provision further out.

In February 2024 the Parish Council released a position statement advising that there was now no dedicated parking for coaches in the village. This was following withdrawal of coach parking provision by private provider Bourton Vale Parking Limited from December 2023.

The Parish Council has no statutory responsibility for provision of coach parking and has limited influence over the situation as it does not own or manage any car parking facilities. The Rissington Road car park is owned and managed by Cotswold District Council and the Station Road car park by Bourton Vale Parking Limited. Over the last 12-18 months the Parish Council has been working with Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire Highways, local businesses and stakeholders to find a solution. However, there has been no workable option from the many discussed.

Local businesses have found a temporary solution to coach parking with provision of land on the industrial estate for 2024. However, this would mean that any coach visitors would have a significant walk into the village, which may be difficult for some. Unfortunately, there is still no proper provision for pick up and drop off of passengers along Station Road or Rissington Road and no dedicated turning point, which has resulted in coaches parking inappropriately on yellow lines, obstructing driveways and manoeuvring on narrow estate roads. This causes traffic hold-ups and potential danger to other road users.

Therefore, with the safety of locals and visitors in mind, the Parish Council felt it necessary to pass the following resolution at its meeting on 6th March:

Coach and Public Safety

1. In the absence of any managed provision for coach parking, and in the interests of the health and safety of residents and visitors, and to improve traffic flow for all, Parish Council accepts the need to act without further delay to restrict coaches from central routes in Bourton-on-the-Water, by way of Traffic Regulation Order(s).
2. Restrictions will not include public service buses including school transport, the Robin, Community Connexions and other existing regular transport to be agreed, for example Harrington House, sports and social clubs for example sporting teams travel, Guiding and Scouting trips, and so on.
3. Restrictions will apply
 - 3.1 from the northwest, from A429 Fosseyway
 - into Lansdowne and High Street
 - into Station Road.Entry onto Bourton Industrial Park from the Fosseyway will not be restricted
 - 3.2 from the southeast, from Rissington Road entry into Bourton-on-the-Water from Little Rissington (possibly including restriction along Leasow Lane towards Great Rissington). This

- would benefit from agreement and cooperation with Upper Rissington Parish Council (URPC), Little Rissington Parish Council (LRPC) and Great Rissington Parish Council (GRPC).
- 3.3 from the northeast, from Kingfisher Road to Meadow Way Roundabout, down Meadow Way / Bourton Link past Cotswold Clubhouse, Colletts buildout, and to the junction with Station Road at Jubilee Lodge.
 - 3.4 from the southwest, from Lankett Lane junction with the "Steeps" (Bourton Hill), not affecting the existing highway access from A429 Whiteshoots Hill towards Sherborne and Clapton-on-the-Hill. This would benefit from agreement and cooperation with CotHPC and Sherborne Parish Council.
4. Council tasks Highways Committee:
- 4.1 to consider, and to recommend to April Parish Council given the urgency, the best way forward to achieve the above without compromising the urgently required signage and yellow lining TROs aimed at reducing volumes of visitor parking on residential streets, and long-desired TRO actions to improve the bus stop area outside the public conveniences next to the Cook Shop on the High Street.
 - 4.2 to consider, and recommend to April Parish Council, whether to use permanent or emergency TROs, or a combination of both, given the urgency of the need to manage coach movements and noting the higher total costs associated with temporary TROs.
 - 4.3 to invite County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and a Highways representative to attend Parish Council Highways Committee meeting for this item, to expedite progress.

Highways Committee will review the proposals at their meeting on 25th March and make recommendations to the 3rd April Parish Council meeting.

Any further information can be obtained by contacting the Clerk to the Council on clerk@bourtononthewater-pc.gov.uk or 01451 820712.