



Rate relief on the way for many local businesses!



Cotswold District Council has written to local firms that may qualify for business rate relief under proposals which were first announced in the March 2017 budget.

The Council identified businesses which are likely to meet the criteria, and has invited them to apply for relief now so that they can receive benefits quickly once the scheme is finalised.

The relief scheme includes support to small businesses facing large increases of over £600 a year. Up to £1,000 discount is also available for qualifying public houses with a rateable value of under £100,000. Additionally, there will be a discretionary fund to assist businesses with a rateable value of less than £200,000 and facing an increase of over £600 this year.

Commenting on the initiative, the Leader of CDC, Cllr Mark Annett, said:

“This is very good news for many businesses across the Cotswolds, and we are keen to get things moving. Once our Officers have received applications for relief, they will review eligibility criteria and decide on relief amounts as soon as they can.

“As yet, we can’t say exactly when the relief will be applied as we are still waiting for the government to clarify all aspects of the scheme. Nevertheless, we are encouraging businesses to apply **before 31 July** so that we can award discretionary payments as soon as possible after that date.

“We believe that we have targeted all the firms that might qualify, but please contact the Council on 01285 623000 if you believe that your business has been overlooked.”



Training events

For details of training and business support services provided by Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd, see www.glosterprise.co.uk/



Get involved now with Tour of Britain promotional activities!



It's less than 50 days to go before the OVO Energy Tour of Britain gets underway! Staff in the Cotswolds tourism team, local town and parish councils and visitor information centres have been working hard to ensure that local businesses are aware of the growing number of events being planned when the competitors pass through the Cotswolds on Saturday 9 September (Stage Seven). Firms are being encouraged to enter into the spirit of the occasion with tie-in offers to boost trade. The organisers have also suggested that it would be great to see companies displaying old bikes painted green (the OVO colour) at premises along the route.

The tour organisers have issued estimated timings for the whole event and have recently confirmed that Moreton-in-Marsh will host an Eisberg sprint stage. Additionally, Bourton-on-the-Hill will be a designated @SKODAUK 'King of the Mountain' point. This follows previous news that Bourton-on-the-Water will host an @eisbergwine sprint stage. Full details of Stage Seven events can be found at www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-seven/

One business that has already thought ahead is Batsford Arboretum which is located at the bottom of the King of the Mountains location and will be offering additional parking, as well as encouraging visitors to experience the delights that the Arboretum offers.

Stuart Priest, Director of Operations at Batsford Arboretum, comments:

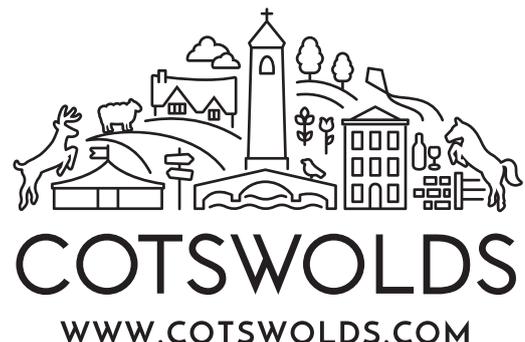
"Knowing we are ideally situated on the route, we have made early plans to open the drive and car parks to aid visitors on the day. The small car park charge will be refunded if people visit and spend over £5 at the Arboretum that day. This will also allow us to raise money for our charity 'Leaves for Learning' project as well as encouraging the public to visit our attraction, including our excellent cafe."

Moreton Town Council is also making the most of the occasion, according to the Media Officer Kit Havelock-Davies:

"We are hosting a splendid vintage bike ride on the same day that the cyclists come through the town, and a Beer Festival will also be taking place at the Moreton Cricket Club grounds.

Anyone who wants further information or would like to get involved should contact the town clerk, on 01608 651448, who will be happy to provide the relevant contact information."

Further promotion is planned over the coming weeks, including competitions with Tour of Britain, so get involved via social media @cotswoldsinfo Instagram The_Cotswolds #OVOTOB and website www.cotswolds.com/tour



Funding available now to help 300 businesses install energy efficiency measures



The Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership has secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund to help 300 businesses in the county install energy saving measures.

The grants will contribute a maximum of 35% towards energy saving projects and could be worth from £500 to £20,000.

The programme – which is being run by the Severn Wye Energy Agency – is called **Target 2020 – Countdown to a Low Carbon Economy**. One of Severn Wye’s business energy advisors will work closely with each business throughout the process to ensure that:

- Historical energy data is analysed.
- An onsite energy survey and report is produced.
- Results of the survey are presented to management.
- Help is provided to create an action plan broken down in to no cost, low cost and capital cost measures.
- Staff are given energy awareness training.

- Help is provided to identify potential installers and quote analysis
- Up to 35% funding is provided towards at least two energy saving measures.
- Publicity is achieved through the programme’s dedicated website and case studies.

The project is headed up by Severn Wye’s Senior Business Energy Advisor Matt Williams, who comments:

“This is a great opportunity for businesses to get help towards financing energy saving projects that will help reduce their running costs.

“We already have businesses contacting us to take part in the programme. So I would recommend people contact us earlier rather than later to avoid disappointment.”

The funding is open to Small and Medium sized enterprises based in Gloucestershire. Businesses are welcome to contact us to register an interest now. The project will be running for three years.

For details please contact mattw@severnwe.org.uk

Abbey 900: Many more events still to come

Cirencester's Abbey 900 Festival has been memorable so far, with many events capturing the public's imagination since the festivities began early this year. Highlights include Cirencester's first ever Fleece Fair in early May, the Plantagenet weekend and medieval banquet in late May and the Regia Anglorum re-enactment event in early July, which told the story of Cirencester castle's destruction during the war of succession between Empress Matilda and King Steven in 1142.

The organisers are indebted to the many people and organisations who have made the event possible through sponsorship and other support.

There are still many more events in the pipeline before the end of the year, including the following:



Love Parks Week	Friday 28 July – Sunday 6 August 2017	ABBEY GROUNDS
New Brewery Arts Exhibition	Sat 22 July – Sun 17 September 2017	NEW BREWERY ARTS
Octavia's Bookshop Literary Festival	Monday 7 – Friday 11 August 2017	BLACK JACK ST, CIRENCESTER
Phoenix Festival	Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 August 2017	ABBEY GROUNDS
Northern Harmony Workshop and Concert	Wednesday 6 September 2017	SUNDIAL THEATRE
Heritage Open Days Opening Talk	Friday 8 September 2017	SALVATION ARMY HALL
Heritage Open Days	Friday 8 – Sunday 10 September 2017	CIRENCESTER TOWN
Murder in the Cathedral by T S Eliot	Thursday 14 – Sat 16 September 2017	PARISH CHURCH
Freedom Parade by 29th Regiment	Sunday 17 September 2017	TOWN CENTRE
Cirencester Golf Club ABBEY 900 Tournament	Monday 18 September 2017	GOLF CLUB
Abbey 900 Festival of Fashion Show	Thursday 21 September 2017	BINGHAM HALL 6.45pm
The Abbey 900 Community and Harvest Supper	Thursday 21 September 2017	PARISH CHURCH 6pm
"Winstone Talk", Dr. Janina Ramirez – "The role the Abbey played in the political, religious and cultural life of the nation and its more immediate influence on its local community".	Wednesday 4 October 2017	PARISH CHURCH 7.30pm
Music to Die For	Thursday 2 November 2017	ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIV
A Book of Hours - Music From the Monastic Day	Saturday 4 November 2017	PARISH CHURCH
Cheltenham Bach Choir - Brahms "A German Requiem" (and Howells "Take Him, Earth, For Cherishing")	Saturday 11 November 2017	PARISH CHURCH at 7.30pm
Cirencester Choral Society Concert	Saturday 25 November 2017	PARISH CHURCH

It's not too late to volunteer to help – or, indeed, pledge your support financially. Please contact Alison Horrocks, 651765 or email horbox@hotmail.com

Volunteers needed for the Great LEGO build



The Cirencester Abbey 900 great LEGO®, build has grown very quickly from its initial opening to the public in April. With a target of completing the build by October, the LEGO team is looking for people to join the team of volunteers. Volunteers are asked to do one afternoon or morning session once a fortnight. There is a particular need for volunteers who are able to work at weekends, when there is a surge in people visiting the model.

Barbara Cooper, the LEGO Champion says: "The common experience of volunteers is that the public are really engaged with building this abbey and all are excited by such a fun project. If you like talking to people and helping people to join in, then this is an opportunity for you. Some of our volunteers will be LEGO enthusiasts who enjoy playing with LEGO, but we also need people who can help take the money"

If you are interested please contact Barbara Cooper 01285 885590 or email (abbey900@gmail.com)

And if you have not yet visited the model to put a brick on it, now is your chance. There are lots of mini-monks dotted around it; they are up to all sorts of things!



Councillors will consider Chesterton planning application on 26 September

A Special Council Meeting to consider the outline application by Bathurst Development Ltd (BDL) for a mixed use development at Chesterton has been scheduled for Tuesday 26 September. This special meeting will begin at 1pm and, to accommodate as many members of the public as possible, the venue will be the Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, GL7 1YE. Formal notification about the special meeting and arrangements will be sent out in due course

The BDL application comprises the erection of up to 2,350 residential dwellings, and provision of employment land, a primary school, a neighbourhood centre, community facilities (including a health care facility), public open space, allotments, and playing fields on land at Chesterton Farm, Cranhams Lane, Cirencester (known as the Chesterton Strategic Site).

NOTE: The 'Ordinary' meeting of the Council previously scheduled for that day will now be moved to another date, and arrangements will be confirmed as soon as possible.



Waterloo car park consultation information is now online

Over 60 local residents attended a public consultation event at the Bingham Gallery, Cirencester in late June to learn more about Cotswold District Council's proposals to expand the capacity of the nearby Waterloo Car Park.

There was a lot of interest in the [information boards](#) on display at the event and these are now available to view on the [Cirencester Parking Project](#) page of the CDC website.

Commenting on the event, Cllr Mark Harris, Chair of the Cirencester Parking Project, said:

"It was good to meet so many people and discuss the proposal with them. We wanted to get feedback before we progressed to designing the car park and deciding on the number of decks, so that we can try and address concerns as part of the design process."

"Over 40 people filled in feedback forms, expressing concerns and support, and we will be reviewing them as part of our deliberations prior to the design stage and submission of a formal planning application."

Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, the Cotswold District Council Cabinet Member with oversight of Cirencester parking issues, added:

"Parking will always be an emotive subject and it was very useful to meet residents and traders at the



consultation event to gauge levels of support and concern and to engage in informed discussions.

"It is clear that people care passionately about the future of the town and we hope they realise that we do too. The information boards helped to address some of the queries arising on the day, particularly our rationale for choosing the Waterloo as our first priority for decking. Some attendees suggested that we should post them on our website and we agreed that it would be useful."

We are always keen to hear what people think and anyone who missed the consultation can email parking@cotswold.gov.uk or telephone 01285 623000 if they would like to comment."

Calendar

Cirencester Chamber of Commerce

Meetings take place on second Wednesday of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm. If you would like to receive a regular reminder, send your details to secretary@ccoc.org.uk

Fairford and Lechlade Business Club

Evening meetings are held at 7.30pm and breakfast meetings quarterly (March, June, September and December) at 8am on the fourth Thursday of the month. See www.flbc.org.uk for details.

Tetbury Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Committee meetings take place on Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm to 9 pm. Contact 01666 502436 for details or go to www.tetburychamber.org.uk

New town information leaflets should help to boost trade in market towns

Visitors to the Cotswolds will now be able to pick up free leaflets which provide very useful information about key features and attractions in several market towns across the area.

Working with local Town Councils, Cotswolds Tourism has so far created leaflets for Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury, with more to follow on Cirencester, Chipping Campden and also a range of locations in West Oxfordshire.

Each leaflet provides a town map and details about local attractions, history, things to see and do, walks, events and festivals, and shopping and eating highlights. Nearby places and attractions are also featured, encouraging visitors to stop off and explore locally. Additionally, the leaflets provide local visitor information locations, so that readers can contact them for further advice about getting the most out of their visit.

The leaflets will soon be available on local town websites, the [Cotswolds Tourism website \(http://www.cotswolds.com/\)](http://www.cotswolds.com/) and in hard copy format at local visitor information centres.

Each participating Town Council has welcomed the introduction of the leaflets, and has contributed to the cost of printing.

For Moreton-in-Marsh, this is the first time that visitors have had access to such a comprehensive resource, and it provides an ideal opportunity to introduce the new Moreton Eight walking trail, as well as reminding people about the ever popular Blenheim Meadow walk. The leaflet for Stow on the Wold ensures visitors know about the town's connections to the English Civil war and the historic wool trade. Visitors to Tetbury will learn about the town's medieval archaeological gems and its present day royal connections.

The long term aim for Cotswolds Tourism will be for all the market towns across the area to offer an information leaflet, as well as working with them on short social media films and new photography to show visitors the range of opportunities on offer.

Other towns that have not yet joined forces with Cotswolds Tourism on this initiative are encouraged to contact cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk



Cotswolds Tourism Manager Sally Graff proudly displays the new leaflets

Edwardian heating system stands the test of time!

When local plumber Shaun Higgins won the tender this year to replace the full heating system in Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon, he wasn't prepared for the surprise of discovering a plaque mounted next to the old heating apparatus stating that it had been supplied and fixed by Bays & Co, Wood Street, Swindon in November 1906!

The company moved from Swindon to Highworth, Wiltshire many years ago – and Managing Director Shaun has worked for them since he was 18. His father, now the Manager at Bays, started as an apprentice in 1970 at the age of 14.

Shaun said: "I couldn't believe it. You hear of so many firms going out of business, but here you have a plumbing company fitting a heating system for Christ Church in 1906 and then coming back to update it 111 years later."

Not wanting to let this historic occasion pass unnoticed, Shaun arranged for another plaque to be mounted alongside the first one stating: 'Edward Bays Ltd proudly supplied and installed this heating system 2017'.

The Vicar of Christ Church, the Rev Simon Stevenette said: "We are all hoping that this new system will last for another 111 years!"



*Thanks to Chris Roberts of the Fairford and Lechlade Business Club for this item.
Photo shows (l to r): Shaun Higgins, Rev Simon Stevenette, and Daniel Pitt who admire the two plaques.*

Don't forget!!!

Please feel free to subscribe to the Cotswold District Council Business Matters Twitter account [@CDCBizmatters](https://twitter.com/CDCBizmatters) which features updates about relevant government initiatives, events, conferences, a training opportunities. We actively encourage local firms to use it as a platform for promoting their business and the number of followers is growing daily.



Forthcoming Public meetings at Cotswold District Council

26 September

Full Council meets to consider Chesterton outline planning application – Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester. (NOTE: the Council meeting previously scheduled for this date to discuss usual business will be rescheduled).

14 September, 19 October, 16 November

Cabinet, Council Chamber, Cirencester

9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November

Planning and Licensing Committee, Council Chamber, Cirencester

5 September 2017

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Council Chamber, Cirencester

Please check www.cotswold.gov.uk for start times and agendas details/minutes