# Rising Tourism Causes Distress in Cotswolds Village of Bourton-on-the-Water



Bourton-on-the-Water, a picturesque village in the Cotswolds, has seen a significant rise in tourism, causing distress among local residents. Known for its quaint pubs, independent shops, and pedestrianized streets, the village has become crowded with coachloads of visitors, drawing comparisons to the busy streets of London. Locals and some visitors have criticized the influx, with residents feeling their town has turned into a theme park.

Problems have arisen due to inconsiderate parking by coaches, blocking roads and causing safety hazards. Incidents of physical altercations and verbal abuse by tourists have been reported. Residents complain about noise, congestion, and the disregard for private properties, with tourists frequently taking photos of stone cottages.

While some business owners appreciate the revenue generated by tourists, others argue that the economic benefits do not stay within the local community. Concerns have been raised over parking issues, with suggestions to create additional parking to relieve congestion.

Bourton Parish Council recently rejected a motion to address the tourism problem, with a narrow vote of six to four. Discussions continue on how to balance the needs of residents and the economic benefits of tourism.