

The latest news, views, and announcements

Coach Parking Solution Agreed for Bourton-on-the-Water

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VED Changes

A new agreement aims to resolve the issue of coaches struggling to find suitable locations for set-down and pick-up since restrictions were imposed on parking facilities within the village. Gloucestershire County Council has worked with key stakeholders, including Gloucestershire Highways, the Bourton Business Network, Pulhams Coaches, and the Parish Council, to implement a new designated drop-off and pick-up point near the industrial estate.

Under the plan, coaches will no longer enter the village centre but will instead drop off and pick up passengers outside the main tourist areas. Once passengers disembark, coaches will then park at Pulhams Coaches' facility. The scheme, backed by Bourton Parish Council, will be piloted for six months, beginning in spring 2025 to coincide with the busy tourist season.

This initiative aims to reduce congestion, improve safety, and ease tensions with local residents during peak months. The trial will be closely monitored to assess its effectiveness.

Looking further ahead, a long-term solution is also being explored in partnership with The Cotswold School, which is considering improvements to its parking facilities to accommodate coaches permanently.

This development represents a positive step forward in balancing the needs of local residents, businesses, and the coach tourism industry.

The scheme will operate between 9am and 4pm every day and operators are advised to contact Pulhams Coaches in advance to ensure sufficient parking is available.

Dates for Your Diary



25th February

Members Meeting

9th March

Members Dinner

The Stratford Manor Hotel,
Stratford Upon Avon

10th March

AGM & Conference

Volvo Group, Warwick

27th March

The Big Coach Conversation

Derbyshire County Cricket Club

12th & 13th April

UK Coach Rally, Blackpool

Heathrow Expansion Plans

Heathrow Airport has unveiled a multi-billion-pound investment programme to upgrade existing infrastructure and lay the groundwork for a third runway, with initial proposals set to be submitted to the Government by summer. The 100% privately funded initiative aims to boost UK investment, enhance airport capacity, and improve connectivity across the country.

Key improvements include expanding Terminal 2, optimising Terminal 5, and reconfiguring the airfield to enhance punctuality. Importantly for the coach industry, the plans also prioritise improving bus and coach links, ensuring better access for passengers and supporting sustainable travel options. This investment could lead to more efficient drop-off and pick-up points, reducing congestion and improving the overall experience for coach operators and their passengers.

While Heathrow acknowledges concerns from local communities, it has committed to engaging with stakeholders to address potential impacts. UKCOA will continue to monitor developments, ensuring coach travel remains a vital part of Heathrow's future transport strategy and that operators benefit from improved facilities and access. Members are encouraged to stay informed and provide feedback on how these plans could support the coach industry's needs.

Partner Spotlight: The Essential Services of Wrightsure



Insurance is all consuming, which of course drives our overriding selling feature, *putting client's first!*

As a financially supportive partner of the UKCOA, going back some thirteen years, we would like to think that most, if not all, members know who we are. The Wrightsure name has been pivotal in passenger transport since 1975 and yes, that poignantly and romantically means that 2025 will be our 50th!

Frustratingly, insurance is a necessary evil, both by statute and risk transfer. We're very well aware that like all service providers, consumers have a preference, a kinship, sometimes duty, sometimes a sense of belonging to us or our competitors. We're respectful of that choice and whether operators want to be (say) in the red team, or the blue team!

Our client affinity is measured by trust. Excluding the TfL Bus market, that trust extends to some 25% of the passenger transport industry, but extends well into haulage, taxi and minibus and some 15,000 vehicles in our care.

We can, from our Fareham office perspective, add real value. Enjoying a strategic partnership with ABTOT for Travel Bonding, where UKCOA members receive a 50% discount on the application fee, reducing it to £100, instead of £200.

Of course, if insurance is called upon, our key strategic offices in Fareham, Thurrock and Liverpool have in-house claims handling resources, which in turn support our colleagues in the satellite offices of Devon, Lincolnshire and Leeds.

To find out more, simply call **01708 865533** or email info@wrightsure.com

Vehicle Tax Changes for Electric and Low-Emission Vehicles

From 1 April 2025, owners of electric, zero, and low-emission cars, vans, and motorcycles will be required to pay Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) in the same way as petrol and diesel vehicle owners. These changes apply to both new and existing vehicles, marking the end of long-standing tax exemptions for greener vehicles.

Electric, Zero, or Low-Emission Cars

- **Registered on or after 1 April 2025:** The first year of VED will be £10, followed by the standard rate of £195 from the second year.
- **Registered between 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2025:** Will move to the standard rate of £195.
- **Registered between 1 March 2001 - 31 March 2017:** Will move to the first band where VED applies, which is £20 per year.

Hybrid and Alternatively Fuelled Vehicles (AFVs)

- The £10 annual discount for hybrid and AFVs will be removed.
- **Registered before 1 April 2017:** The rate will depend on CO₂ emissions ([check current rates](#)).
- **Registered on or after 1 April 2017:** Will be taxed at the standard rate of £195.

Electric Vans

- Most electric vans will move to the standard annual rate for light goods vehicles.

Additional Rate (Expensive Car Supplement)

- New electric and zero-emission cars registered on or after 1 April 2025 with a list price over £40,000 will be subject to the standard £195 rate plus an additional supplement for five years.

If you own or manage a fleet of company or pool vehicles, these changes will impact operating costs from 2025 and businesses should plan for increased VED expenses when budgeting for future vehicle acquisitions.

For full details, visit: [Vehicle Tax for Electric and Low-Emission Vehicles](#).