

Report from Coach Operator

I've looked further into setting up a Lowestoft Gems Taster Coach Tour "business". At this point were I to take this on probably the best model is a not for profit CIC. Could I share some thoughts with you and then could we possibly have a chat over the phone?

Whereas I think the idea of a Lowestoft Gems Tour has wings, I'm not sure if I have the skills and expertise to take it to the next level.

I think the best way forward would be to find a partner with those attributes to share the load or indeed for an organisation like yours to actually take up the baton and run with it without me. Would LTC be interested ?

Please indulge me while I explain my idea further for you and your team to consider.

In a 16 seater coach-City to Coast Tours/already booked by me-I'd suggest for the first season, just 14 guests paying £50 per head for the experience.

I would suggest an on coach tour guide-I'm in the process of looking at local voluntary organisations to offer their members as guides.

I'd also initially suggest only a once weekly tour, say on a Monday.

A simple brochure at various holiday camps and a website would promote the experience.

Booking and ticket issue could also be through the website.

Heavy marketing would not be required as we would only need 10 guests per week to make the tour viable.

Pick up would start at 08.00 in Hopton, going from there to Potters, to Corton, to Gunton Hall, to Royal Plain, Pakefield and then Kessingland.

At 09.30 I would hope to arrive at The East Anglia Transport Museum for a 10 min talk from one of their volunteers and perhaps a short tram ride around the facility-I'm waiting for a response for them.

From there Guests would be taken to Carlton Marshes where again a volunteer could explain what it is SWT are doing there. A coffee and muffin would be provided. SWT are on board.

Then at 11.30 the coach would go to Nicholas Everitt Park where a Lowestoft Museum member would again give a short presentation on the artefacts and collections there.

Guests could have a view of The Broads and the Banksy while they are there. Then onto lunch at Public House via the largest bascule bridge of its kind in the world, the Morton Peto architecture of Marine Parade and Kirkley Cliff as well as the birth place of Benjamin Britten. At The public House ploughmans type lunch would be on offer and guests could enjoy the magnificent views of Pakefield Bay.

From there the tour would take in the Triangle, The High Street and hopefully the Heritage Centre on Wilde Score.

From there onto Ness Point via The Ravine, then the two museums in Sparrows Nest and the lighthouse. En route a guide would keep guests entertained and informed.

At 17.00 the first drop off would be at Hopton and then in the same order as the pick ups.

It would be good to attend the meeting knowing that;

1. You endorse the idea

2. You as a Council would “like” to take the proposal forward yourselves with or without my involvement.