



Double Award win for Wells and The Bishop's Palace British Coach Tourism Awards 20th March 2019

Great excitement in the City of Wells and at The Bishop's Palace today at the news that two prestigious awards were won last night at the 2019 British Coach Tourism Awards in Birmingham.

The City of Wells was awarded the top prize for Coach Friendly Destination - an accolade that is well deserved following two years of partnership working from key players in the City's tourism industry to improve both the facilities available to coach tourism groups and the offer once they arrive. The Visit Wells and Visit by Coach groups comprise members from Wells Cathedral, The Bishop's Palace, Wells & Mendip Museum, Wells Civic Society, Town Hall and the Chamber of Commerce and has been facilitated by Ian Jefferies, an expert in Group and Coach Tourism.

Wells faced stiff competition from cities such as Bournemouth/Poole, Newmarket, Southport and Burnham-On-Sea and the award is a fitting testament to how hard the Visit by Coach team has worked to devise solutions to the problems inherent in welcoming large, modern coaches to a medieval city with all its eccentricities and delights.

Andy Webb from Visit Wells said “Working together is the only way to build and sustain our offer as a destination and is at the core of the new Wells Heritage Partnership and our commitment to redesign Visit Wells as a broad partnership reflecting our community and all it has to offer”

The Bishop's Palace was awarded Coach Friendly Attraction which was a fantastic surprise for the site given that it was up against some prestigious and very well-known visitor attractions such as Blenheim Palace, RHS Wiseley and Rosemoor and Chatsworth.

Rosie Martin, Chief Executive of The Palace Trust said “This is a truly fantastic achievement and it speaks volumes for the hard work and dedication of our team in their efforts to appeal to and attract increased business from coach groups wanting to see this wonderful heritage site and gardens.”