

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Update, November 2020

Cllr Tania Pascoe

Background

- The Parish Council has received two recent resident requests for the installation of public EV charging points in Freshford.
- A Government announcement is expected to bring forward the ban on new fossil fuel vehicles from 2040 to a more ambitious target of 2030 in order speed up EV adoption in the UK as part of the Government's strategy to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- The issue is the availability of off-street and public charging points. Those without off street parking are only able to charge their electric vehicles using long cables trailing across the road, creating safety issues.
- Unless the electricity used is green electricity then the benefits of EVs are minimal.
- We need to be mindful of the fact that we don't want to increase non-community traffic by offering public EV charging due to capacity. Any plan would need to ensure EV charging is resident only, or that there is sufficient EV charging in other surrounding locations. Farleigh Road Farm Shop has public EV charging.

Potential locations

- Brown's Field – Cllr Ben Walters has spoken with Chris Birleson Club & Facilities Manager about the possibility of installing an EV charging point in the car park there and possibly some solar panels – they will discuss this more when the Council can provide more information.
- The School – Martin Whitbread is working to get EV charging points put in the School car park to run off the solar panels. The EV charging points would be available to residents during weekends, evenings and school holidays.
- Memorial Hall/Galleries Car park – raised with Claudia Towner. This is the most central location with a car park.
- The pub car park – not been discussed yet.
- Layby by Freshford Mill – not discussed yet.
- Other suggestions?

Resident requests

Terry & Jan Pitt – Wrote to ask if we had considered installing charging points on street lights and have purchased an electric car but have no off street parking. They are also charging at the University which has charge points.

Steve Lailey, works for Highways England – he suggested the layby on A36 but there would need to be consideration of whether additional facilities such as bins and toilets would be required to prevent anti-social behaviour. He also suggested we look into Co-Cars electric car sharing club. He also requested that we look into charging at the Memorial Hall/Galleries.

Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE)

- I attended a Zoom call with Co-Cars/BWCE to see if an electric car-sharing scheme was an option for Freshford. So far Co-Cars are working on large scale urban areas. We need to focus on EV charging points for the community first. I will report back to Steve Lailey.
- BWCE are working with Electric Blue, a funded scheme to get EV chargers in rural areas. They are working on a feasibility study in BOA and surrounding villages. We have requested that Freshford is part of that feasibility study.

Next Steps

- Meeting with Electric Blue / BWCE action Tania Pascoe and to include Martin Whitbread/School
- Update with Memorial Hall/Galleries
- Update from B&NES