

**Melksham Town Council**  
**Economic Development and Planning Committee**  
**14 November 2022**

***Electric Vehicle Charging Points for Melksham Town***

***Report of the Town Clerk in conjunction with Councillor Rabey***

**1. Purpose of the report**

To establish whether the Town Council have an appetite to apply for the funding available through Wiltshire Council and Central Government to enable the Town Council to provide Electric Charging Points at various, agreed, and approved locations in the Town.

**2. Background**

The Town Council has pledged to do all it can to reduce its carbon emissions in the bid to tackle Climate Change. The Council has a 74-point Action Plan to promote biodiversity, which the Council has a duty to consider and take mitigating steps to reduce carbon emissions to tackle the Climate Change crisis.

According to Carbon Brief, Clear on Climate; 'In most countries, the majority of emissions over the lifetime of both electric and conventional vehicles come from vehicle operation – tailpipe and fuel cycle – rather than vehicle manufacture. The exception is in countries – Norway or France, for example – where nearly all electricity comes from near zero-carbon sources, such as hydroelectric or nuclear power'.

However, while the carbon emitted from burning a gallon of petrol or diesel cannot be reduced, the same is not true for electricity. Lifecycle emissions for electric vehicles are much smaller in countries such as France (which gets most of its electricity from nuclear) or Norway (from renewables).

For example, in the UK, emissions from electricity generation have fallen 38% in just the past three years and are expected to fall by more than 70% by the mid-to-late 2020s, which is well within the lifetime of electric vehicles purchased today.

**3. The Pros and the Cons**

**Pros:**

- Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) emit no CO<sub>2</sub> from the tailpipe when on the road - a monumental reduction in emissions. Swapping to an EV saves an average of 1.5 MILLION grams of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.
- Any emissions produced tend to be in production. Once an EV gets on the road its emissions are complete - whereas a petrol or diesel engine has a lifetime of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ahead.
- EVs also tackle noise pollution - the reduction in engine noise can truly contribute to a better environment, particularly in cities

## Cons

- Fully electric vehicles (BEVs) take more emissions to create, mostly due to the production of their lithium batteries, but these emissions are more than offset by lower EV emissions in use on the road.
- EVs are not emission-free, as even EVs emit particulates - from road, tyre, and brake wear and tear.

## 4. Current Situation

The present offer of EV charging points in Melksham is limited; currently there are EV charging points in King Street Car Park, which are out of commission and not due to be recommissioned until 2023 there are also EV charging points planned for use in 2023 at the new Campus.

Councillor Rabey attended a webinar presentation by Wiltshire Council which discussed funding opportunities for Town and Parish Councils. The links to the webinars are below as well as details on how to apply for the grant funding. Attached are the presentation slides.

### [Electric vehicles and charging points - Wiltshire Council.](#)

The webpage at the link includes:

- i) [Wiltshire EVCPI grant guidance](#)
- ii) The application form for the grants: [EVCPI Grant Scheme \(wiltshire.gov.uk\)](#)
- iii) Recordings of the presentations at the webinar – each presentation is short (around 10m) and shareable:
  - [National and Wiltshire EV strategy](#)
  - [National ORCS grant](#)
  - [Wiltshire EVCPI grant](#)
  - [Wiltshire Council's charge point installer Joju and their provision of free site assessments](#)
- iv) Link to guidance for the national On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) grants from Government, which can be used in conjunction with the Wiltshire grants.

If you have identified sites, the first step in applying for the Wiltshire EVCPI grant (up to £2500) is to book a free site assessment from Joju, Wiltshire Council's EV Charging Infrastructure provider. Please contact [info@joju.co.uk](mailto:info@joju.co.uk) with 'Wiltshire Council EV Charging Project' in the subject line.

If, having reviewed the materials, you have further questions for the Council, please contact [fleet.services@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:fleet.services@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## 5. Identifying Sites

The Town Council will need to identify sites for EV Charging points and then book a site assessment from Joju.

Page 33 of the Slide Presentation details the grants available, but these are only applicable for schemes on Wiltshire Council land or the Highway.

## 6. Next Steps - Criteria

Wiltshire Council is introducing these grant schemes to parish and town councils to increase the number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points across the county.

Read the Wiltshire Council Cabinet report of 12<sup>th</sup> October here: [read the full Cabinet report](#)

- Locations need to be identified and then a site assessment undertaken by Joju. Locations identified to have a high proportion of properties lacking off-street parking and demonstrate a high demand for EV Charging Points if grants are to be successful. Consider all available residential charging options, with solutions designed to balance the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, while keeping a safe and accessible network of footways, and minimising the amount of street furniture and clutter. This may include off-street and on-street charging infrastructure. EV Charging Points will not be installed in locations where they would restrict footway access.
- Individual site surveys will be required to assess potential on-street locations; this will be part of any grant funding application. It is advisable that some community engagement takes place with residential communities, including through a survey, to understand their needs and determine which locations would be best suited for charging infrastructure.
- There would also have to be consultation with local stakeholders in locations where the potential location of EV Charging Points could be deemed unwelcome or controversial for example in areas where parking is already at a premium. The grant will support town and parish councils with the submission to the Office for Zero Emissions (OZEV) and On Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (OSRC), grant application, and additional Wiltshire Council funding of up to £2,500 per site where on Wiltshire Council responsible land is available.
- Undertake a feasibility study with an EV Charging Point supplier into installing, maintaining, and operating EV Charging Points in Council owned public car parks that are located within a 5-minute walk (400m) of a residential area with a high proportion of households without off-street parking. EV Charging Points at these locations may be eligible for ORCS funding. Enforce Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for EV Charging Points to restrict petrol or diesel vehicles parking in electric vehicle charging bays and limit the length of stay for an electric vehicle to parking only whilst charging. These offences will be enforced through Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).
- Ensure all Council residential EV Charging Points, both off-street and on-street, will allow public access. EV Charging Points will not be considered personal to any individual or business if deemed a residential EV Charging Point.
- Commit to residential EV Charging Points on Wiltshire Council owned land being supplied with electric from green energy suppliers who produce 100% of their electric from zero-carbon sources.

- Encourage community charging facilities by signposting the services available from EV Charging Point sharing providers. Sharing or renting out of home chargers by electric vehicle owners could significantly increase community access to EV Charging Points and remove the barriers to owning an electric vehicle in residential areas without off-street parking.
- Have a webpage on the Council website for residents to suggest locations for electric vehicle charging points. Provide guidance to residents where off-street charging is not available on methods to allow on-street charging in a safe and convenient manner.
- Develop guidance to define where support for residential EV charging points will be given by the council.

## 7. Considerations

- **Equalities:** The recommendation has potential to improve access to EV Charging Points for those without opportunities to provide the infrastructure on their own property.
- **Climate:** The recommendation has potential for a positive impact.
- **Ecology:** The recommendation has no impact.
- **Staff:** The recommendation has an impact in respect of staff time to liaise with Wiltshire Council, contractors and apply for the grants.
- **Legal:** The recommendation has no impact; Traffic Orders will be dealt with by Wiltshire Council Highways.
- **Risk:** The recommendation has no impact.
- **Benefit to Melksham:** The recommendation has a beneficial impact by providing additional facilities and opportunities to residents.
- **Finance:** The recommendation has minimal impact as it is grant funded. Although at this stage it is not known how much officer time the scheme would take from initial identification of locations to implementation. It is considered a major project.

## 8. RECOMMENDATION:

To consider how the town council should respond to the scheme and offer of grants through Wiltshire Council to provide Electric Vehicle Charge Points for residents in carparks and on-street.

There is also the option members may want to consider and that is whether the Town Council pursues its own scheme independently of Wiltshire Council.

**Linda Roberts**  
Town Clerk  
[linda.roberts@melksham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:linda.roberts@melksham-tc.gov.uk)

**Saffi Rabey**  
Town Councillor  
[saffi.rabey@melksham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:saffi.rabey@melksham-tc.gov.uk)

### Further Reading for information:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/scoping-role-local-authorities-EV>

<https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/wiltshire-council-and-bradford-on-avon-town-council-launch-electric-car-hire-survey/>

[Bradford Council Charging point survey](#)

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/00e73ed3-1039-46df-b0c6-1158040645f2>