

The Matter of EV Chargers on the High Street

In his last report to the JPC, Cllr Ian Shenton said:

I have received a copy of the audit report and the key issues to come out of this are as follows.

- 1) Transport Planning to commission the TRO to designate the bays as 'EV only' to overcome the trip hazard and help alert passing motorists of the location of the bays. The TRO process includes a statutory consultation exercise so any residents will be able to make their views at the appropriate time.
- 2). Transport Planning to instruct BP Pulse to install an additional advisory sign to EV users to ensure they park and connect up to the charger in a considerate manner to avoid creating a trip hazard.
- 3). Transport Planning has shared the report with BP Pulse (charge point supplier) and is awaiting a response to the recommendation regarding the height of the signs. Signage should be at a height of 2.5metres. Current signage is too low.
- 4). Transport Planning to push back on the recommendation for additional visibility of the charge points on the basis that a combination of street lighting and the lights on the charge points ensure that there is good visibility.

At a previous meeting the following was also raised by members/members of the public:

A. Lack of consultation over the chargers - This does not appear to be the case as I have had sight of the email trail and checked the minutes of the JPC and noted the following:

- i. 21/03/2021 Email from Cllr John Clarke to Margaret Smith (County)
- ii. 22/03/2021 JPC minutes that the matter has been discussed. Margaret Smith gives a short presentation to the JPC. Members present Cllrs Field, Jones, Woods, Easton, Bainbridge, Clarke, Kingsnorth, White & PC clerk Ray Evans.
The County council notes that it was a lively discussion.
- iii. In an email dated 22/03/2021 and timed at 19.37- Cllr. Clarke says to Margaret Smith – “I believe that means all systems go”
- iv. 02/08/2021 Public session notes – Chair mentioned that EV terminals will be arriving in Henley shortly and that the subject will be placed on future agendas This would seem to indicate that the EV chargers and the site were known and approved by the Parish Council but if that is not the case then please let me know.

B. Removing the chargers and possibly putting them somewhere else – Whilst this is possible because it is easy to take away the pedestal, the wiring underneath and the area would need to be made good. In addition, due to the nature of the contract there would be a compensation claim. I will discuss this in greater detail verbally but the cost is estimated at around £40k and if the feeling is still that they should be removed then the Parish Council will be asked to underwrite the costs/claims as the PC does appear to have agreed to the chargers. I do not have a copy of the official report as yet, only the details of what the report says and if the PC want a copy it will need to contact MargaretSmith@warwickshire.gov.uk who will be able to advise you.

The Clerk thanks the County Councillor for his research into this matter and asks members and the public to further consider the comments from a Henley resident as potential reasons for further dialogue with the EV Charger Stakeholders

- 1. The JPC were advised that a “detailed study had been undertaken” this was the aspect of the Freedom of Information request submitted where we learnt that no such study was undertaken.*
- 2. Whether the report / decision mentioned was materially misleading to members of the Council*
- 3. Had the inaccurate advice not been provided would the Council have come to a different decision?*

Supporting document for the JPC Ordinary Meeting, Monday 6th of February 2023.