

Electric Car Charging Points and Community Buildings

At our recent village hall advisers conference in Leicester, Dr Darren Hadley head of infrastructure grants from the Department of Transport, gave us a presentation. He works in the office for zero emission vehicles. Here is their website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-zero-emission-vehicles>

Dr Hadley said that the big question that is overhanging his department now is, how far in front of demand and need will car charging infrastructure be available? At the moment electric cars are outselling diesel cars and soon they will outsell petrol cars. 2030 is the year that the sales of new petrol cars will end and by 2035 all cars must be fully zero emission.

He told us that the roll out of charge point funding is being upgraded next year due to the demand. He is supporting workplace charging schemes for 2022 and these include hall's, sports centres and community pubs.

Dr Hadley's department also supports on street residential charge points. The grant has funded lots of home charge points through the home charge scheme and in 2022, this will also support people in flats and rental accommodation.

Talking about halls he explained 2 points

Point 1. there are 2 types of demand:

- local people who don't have charge points
- and people coming from a distance

A survey was carried out on how far local people were prepared to walk to get their car charged and the answer was that if they have to walk more than 10 mins, they might not come, also they need to feel safe walking to and from the hall.

Point 2. When will people charge?

- Night or day
- Fast or slow

He said that slow charger may be better and that a 7kw charger will take 8 hours to recharge a standard vehicle from flat to full.

(He mentioned that fast charging is the petrol forecourt mode).

He thinks that village halls have a lot more capacity for charging vehicles overnight because they won't have dishwashers and Jacuzzis running all night!

If you want fast charging points, you may need more electricity from your local supplier and this may involve upgrading the local grid and this could take up to a year, also you may need to dig up the halls car park to put new infrastructure in. If you go for slow chargers, you may not need to do that.

Electricity costs money, so how will you recoup it?

Will you make charging free and recoup it somewhere else? Or will you add a surcharge e.g. 7p instead of 5p and 2p goes back to your hall.

If you want it to be a public charge point, you need to have contactless payment so that its easy to use and get people to sign up.

In your business case you need to work out how you will use the charger and get money back? Also, when will it need replacing? For instance, the cables might need replacing after 10 years.

Questions after the presentation

Will the grants be open to registered charities? What if they don't have a charity number? Can religious buildings, shops and community pubs get the grant? 8 hour charging might block halls car parking spaces and this might be against the halls charitable 'objects'. Could halls provide 'top ups', like supermarkets do so that anyone travelling from a distance can get home?

Hopefully all these questions will be answered soon and please look out for the workplace car charging grant schemes for 2022.

If you want to hear how a hall in North Yorkshire has installed an EVC point at their hall, please listen to their podcast recording on Community First Yorkshire's website.

<https://communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/podcast/> It's the second recording down.

Kirtlington Village hall in Oxfordshire have also installed a car charging point in their hall car park, I'm sure they would be happy to talk about their experiences.

Tessa Hall CFO November 2021