

To:
Oxfordshire County Council

Dear Sir or Madam,

Proposed Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Shrivenham

Shrivenham Parish Council welcomes investment in sustainable transport infrastructure and recognises the important role that publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities will play in supporting the transition to lower-emission transport.

However, the Council wishes to express its disappointment that neither the Parish Council, nor our local County or District Councillors, appear to have been involved in any meaningful discussion prior to the publication of proposals to install six EV charging bays within the centre of the village.

As the tier of local government with the closest understanding of the village, its parking patterns and community needs, we believe that early engagement could have added considerable value to the proposal. Over the past two years the Parish Council has devoted significant time and effort to improving parking arrangements within Shrivenham. This work has resulted in the successful introduction of a three-hour maximum stay scheme alongside a residents' parking permit system, balancing the needs of residents, local businesses and visitors.

During this same period, the Parish Council has also been actively exploring the provision of EV charging facilities within its **Martens Road Car Park**. Given this ongoing work, it is particularly disappointing that these local initiatives do not appear to have been considered as part of the development of the current proposal.

Whilst we recognise that one of the barriers to EV ownership can be the lack of access to home charging for some residents, we question whether the proposed concentration of six charging bays in the very centre of the village's commercial area represents the optimum solution.

Our concerns are:

- The number of chargers – six seems excessive at the present time
- The proposed location in the village – these particular bays are in constant use for the shops and Elm Tree surgery
- The unusual requirement for residents' permits

The High Street parking bays are heavily used by shoppers, visitors and local businesses. Removing a significant number of these spaces for dedicated EV charging has the potential to reduce the flexibility of parking provision in what is already the busiest part of the village.

The Council would therefore encourage Oxfordshire County Council to consider alternative approaches, including:

- locating charging facilities within the **Martens Road Car Park**
- distributing charging points across more than one location within the village, for example providing some facilities towards the Barrington Arms end of the High Street (which is a more residential area) and provide others elsewhere; or
- providing at least some charging facilities in locations that are freely accessible and do not rely upon parking permit arrangements, thereby improving accessibility for both residents and visitors.

Finally, the Council would welcome a better understanding of the evidence and data that informed the selection of Shrivenham, and specifically the proposal for six charging bays in this location. Information regarding anticipated demand, modelling assumptions and the site selection process would assist both the Council and the wider community in understanding the rationale behind the proposal.

The Parish Council would also welcome the opportunity to meet with officers from Oxfordshire County Council, either at County Hall or, preferably, on site in Shrivenham. We believe that a joint site visit would allow local knowledge, existing parking arrangements and future aspirations for EV infrastructure to be considered together, ensuring that any final scheme delivers the greatest benefit to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Shrivenham Parish Council is supportive of the County Council's wider ambitions to increase EV charging infrastructure across Oxfordshire. Our comments are intended not to oppose the principle of the scheme, but to help ensure that its implementation reflects local circumstances and makes the best possible use of the limited parking available within the village.

We look forward to working constructively with Oxfordshire County Council as the proposals develop.

Yours faithfully,

Shrivenham Parish Council