

Potential EV charger point and electric power to Elsdon village green

You may be aware that Elsdon Parish Council (EPC) has been working with Northumberland County Council (NCC) for a possible EV charging point to be installed in Elsdon.

The original location suggested by NCC, near the Pinfold, was declined by EPC as inappropriate.

A new location has now been proposed. This is within the 'informal' lay-by near the bus shelter opposite the Bird in Bush. This is presently an often wet and muddy area that, if the proposal goes ahead, will host two parking bays for rapid EC charging. Vehicles will park parallel to the B6341. The area will be improved to include kerb and hexagonal mesh parking area to allow grass to grow though. Whilst it is appreciated as a consequence of this there will be two fewer parking spaces it is believed if this were to happen there would be more benefits than disadvantages.

One knock-on advantage would be that NCC have said it would provide electric to the village green. This would improve facilities at events such as the August Bank Holiday fete, the bonfire / fireworks on 5 November and Christmas lights / festive events. EPC would be required to pay the ongoing costs for the supply of electricity and it is possible the precept may have to increase slightly to cover this.

Additionally NCC has advised there may be a possibility for an extra street light to be installed within the area of the bus shelter, or possibly even on the external wall of the bus shelter. It is noted that there is a street light on the other side of the road near the public telephone box however the area where the EV charger would be installed and towards the church is very dark and there are no footpaths for pedestrians to use.

EPC is aware that additional street lights is an emotive topic and some residents prefer to maintain a minimum of lights. As such the Parish Councillors would welcome your views on the topic of the EV charger as well as the possibility of having a further street light.

Please note that EPC has had discussion with NCC about an EV charger at the car park however due to lack of infrastructure at this location the cost of connection to a power line would not make the work presently viable.

Any comments can be either shared on this social media site or contacting either the Parish Clerk at elsdonpc@hotmail.co.uk or any one of the Parish Councillors. Please can you share any comments by 4 March, 2024.