

**Wiltshire Council**

**Full Council**

**19 October 2021**

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**Item 6 – Public Participation**

**From Bill Jarvis**

**To Councillor Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding**

Last week the so called EV charging strategy was presented to Cabinet, item 6 on the agenda. Put up as a major milestone by the Cabinet member for Climate, I was looking forward to some innovative and imaginative solutions.

Having reviewed it, my heart sank.

You intend to invest £70,000 in the next 3 years on refurbishing existing facilities. This at a time of huge growth in EV sales. You plan to use an agile approach.

You use Government figures to make the case that only 30% of cars will be electric by 2030. 58,000 in Wiltshire. While this is a ludicrously low number, how are you going to address all the visitors transiting?

How does that fit with an ambition to get to net zero by 2030 in Wiltshire? How does that fit with getting a 68% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 (Central Govt)

How does that give anyone an incentive to buy an EV or even visit Wiltshire in their EV, as there will be nowhere to recharge.

You then propose that the price for using the refurbished chargers will be £0.35 per kwh. Which magazine recently calculated that once the rate went above £0.33 it was cheaper, fuel wise, to drive a petrol or diesel car. Big incentive to change there then. At present you spend £25k per year on electricity.

You also plan to provide charging points in public car parks, for those who cannot install a charger at their home. Most people who live in such accommodation were probably looking to save money with their EV. You have now disabused them of that dream. So, it's all ok if you can charge at home and pay a domestic rate of £0.20, really good saving for those that have a drive. But a huge penalty for visitor to our county and for those who aren't able to park their car off road. Big incentive there then.

No real consideration has gone into this proposal and, as you admit, it is a sticking plaster to enable a proper strategy to be put in place... in 3 years time.

**Question (P21-21)**

How are you going to make a proper EV support strategy, which we have been waiting for ever since you issued the EV survey, so long ago I've even lost the date?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

**Question (P21-22)**

- a) How are you going to give proper support to those who can't put a charger at home, on street charging. Charging bays, charger time share?
- b) ... and, when are you going to do a proper job of calculating what is a fair and reasonable realistic rate per kw?

**Response**

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.