

South West Wiltshire Area Board's Electric Car Club Pilot

Background

Extract from Minutes of Mere Town Council meeting held on 1st March 2021

200. Reports & Consultations

a) To receive and consider report from Wiltshire Councillor – Cllr. George Jeans confirmed that he had attended a Licensing Committee meeting recently whereby it was confirmed that if food stalls were on the highway or Wiltshire Council land then street trading consent would be required although there are exemptions under the scheme for fetes, carnivals or similar community based and run events e.g. Xmas lights switch-on events and non-commercial, community or charitable events where the profits are not used for private gain or are wholly passed to a charity or political/educational organisation. Also, if the food stall were on private land more than 10m from the highway, then consent would not be required. Cllr. Jeans said that he had asked the South West Wiltshire Area Board for a councillors initiative to have a study done for Mere to benefit from Electric Vehicle Charging Points and to have an electric car sharing club which would be self-funding.

Extract from Minutes of Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board held on 17th March 2021

Mere Electric Car Club (AB initiative) requested £11,000

Cllr Jeans spoke in support of the project, noting that the name of the scheme would be re-named following further planning. The number of households in Wiltshire with no cars was quite high, and many households were based in rural areas, therefore reliant on public transport. The proposal was to pilot a scheme in Mere and see if it that could then be spread further across our area. Cllr Jeans moved the motion to award the full amount to the Initiative. This was seconded by Cllr Wayman.

Decision The South West Wiltshire Area Board allocated £11,000 to the Area Board Initiative – Electric Car Club Pilot. Reason The application met the grants criteria for 2020/21

Agenda item for consideration:

In July 2021 I receive an email from Karen Linaker asking if a survey can be submitted to the people of Mere and b) if it is OK to issue this in the name of the Town Council. (NB – the reason that this has not been raised as an agenda item before now is because Cllr. Jeans has been unable to attend the last two meetings).

Extract of email from Karen Linaker dated 28.7.21

Also –

- (1) attached is Draft 2 of the Electric Car Club Survey to the people of Mere. Before I send this over to Helen at Co Cars for final formatting – can you take a look (George, this will be your second look if that is ok). I especially am keen to ensure that the Town Council were agreed on this being issued in their name. It seems ideal to me if this car club project could be 'hosted' if you like by the Town Council, in the absence of any other community group stepping forward, but I just wanted to be clear that the TC is happy with this way forward.
- (2) As I understand it, Co- Cars principle model of communicating out this survey is online. However, I have picked up from George, I think, that he would prefer a hard copy version too if possible. I will liaise with Helen to find out how to make that work. I know George has some ideas.

(3) About a month ago, Mark (manager of Co Cars) said he would begin the process of checking out the lie of the land in terms of electrics for the charging points – ably assisted by George. I have chased Mark for an update on this, and will do so again.

Mere Electric Car Club – Draft Survey

Mere Town Council is looking at options for introducing a shared electric car club for the town. The car club would have electric cars bookable from as little as half an hour from **Salisbury Street Car Park**.

The main objectives are :

- to develop an electric car club for the town resulting in local and wider environmental benefits much needed in the rural areas where car dependency is high and public transport infrastructure is weak
- to further extend the appeal of the town's main car park to A303 travellers as not simply a point to rest on long journeys and take a loo stop but to also benefit from new electric charging points and in turn benefiting local shops as drivers take a journey break whilst their car battery charges
- local people will benefit especially those unable to afford their own cars to travel to out of town supermarkets etc; and local businesses could also benefit by using the cars for business journeys. Local people will also benefit where occasional (or even regular) need for a second car arises.

The results of this survey will be shared with **Mere Town Council** to assist its planning by providing important evidence. The initial survey and mailing list are being operated by Co Cars (www.co-cars.co.uk). All data collected is held in accordance with Co Cars' privacy policy: www.co-cars.co.uk/visitor-privacy.

1. Would you be interested in joining an electric car club with shared vehicles to book from as little as half an hour from SALISBURY STREET CAR PARK, Mere?
2. What types of journeys do you think you'd make? (select as many as apply)

Commuting / business travel

Visiting friends & family

Taking children to/from school

Supermarket shopping & other errands

Medical appointments

Moving bulky items / van trips

Day trips

Evening trips e.g. after school clubs, social outings etc.

Access to outdoor space / exercise

Weekends away

Longer hires

3. How often do you think you would use the electric car club?

Several times a week

At least once a week

At least a couple of times a month

Once a month

Less often

4. How long do you think you'd typically book a vehicle for?

An hour or two

Half a day

A day

Longer

5. Would joining an electric car club enable you to either get rid of a car you already own or not buy a car?

Yes

No

I don't know

I don't own a car

6. If you answered 'no' to the previous question, could you explain why

7. Please can you provide your postcode to help us map potential electric car club locations.

8. Our vision is for the electric car club to be community-supported. There could be potential for members to invest to support its growth & collectively influence decisions on vehicle locations. How important is this vision to you?

9. Would you be willing to pledge a £25 deposit towards the set-up of an electric car club (this would cover your 1st year membership and is refundable if the car club doesn't go ahead)?

Yes

No

Maybe

10. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

11. If you would like to receive updates about an electric car club for Mere, including how to pledge your refundable £25 deposit, please enter your email address below and tick the subscribe box.

I understand that Karen Linaker will be attending the Town Council meeting on Monday evening and she has informed me that she has asked the Director of Co Cars to visit Mere to look at the car park and survey what will be needed in terms of space/electrics.