



## Rural Kent Village & Community Halls Advice & Information Service

For more info, contact Angela Milligan, [communitybuildings@ruralkent.org.uk](mailto:communitybuildings@ruralkent.org.uk)

### Guidance Sheet 1: KCC Electric vehicle charge points project

As many of you will be aware, KCC is funding the installation of electric vehicle charge points in village hall and parish council car parks. There is no charge for installation. KCC is covering the costs as they want there to be a network of chargers covering rural areas that may not otherwise be attractive to commercial providers.

If you are interested in this scheme, please read KCC's FAQs on their website very carefully so that you understand the scheme and the arrangements that will be in place for installation, reimbursement of electricity etc. You can also watch a recording of the talk about the scheme hosted by Rural Kent.

This is the link to the Youtube talk: <https://youtu.be/LZuTXaQxe28>

Here's the link to KCC's FAQs. <https://tinyurl.com/46rj67zf>

If you have a charge point installed, you will need to sign a licence agreement with KCC.

**The licence agreement has been checked by Ian Davison, Partner at Surrey Hills Solicitors to make sure it is suitable for village halls.** However, if you want to make any changes or require further advice before signing, please contact Ian on 01306 877592, email [ian.Davison@surreyhillssolicitors.co.uk](mailto:ian.Davison@surreyhillssolicitors.co.uk). Note that there would be a charge for this.

### Checklist of points to consider:

- **Check your trust deed or articles to make sure it comes within the scope of your purpose (may be called the 'object')**. Providing there are benefits for the charity (in terms of income, bringing more people to the hall and raising awareness of its events, creating goodwill and support for the hall amongst residents) we believe it's acceptable for village hall car parks to be used in this way. Setting aside car park

Action with Communities in Rural Kent, The Old Granary, Penstock Hall Farm, Canterbury Road, East Brabourne, Kent TN25 5LL. Charity Number: 212796 [www.ruralkent.org.uk](http://www.ruralkent.org.uk); [www.facebook.com/RuralKent](https://www.facebook.com/RuralKent), <https://twitter.com/RuralKent>

spaces must not displace charitable users. If your car park is very small, it wouldn't be reasonable to give up spaces for EV charge points as it would affect use by your normal hirers.

- **ACRE's advice is that village hall governing documents are unlikely to allow contributions towards the charge point.** This would effectively be giving a grant from your charity to KCC. However, parish councils could support the village hall's application by making a contribution on the village hall's behalf.
- **Check what you pay for electricity compared to the charge to users.** If the price paid by KCC only just covers your electricity charge, there will likely be no profit after maintenance charges are taken off, so you need to think about whether you're still happy to host the chargers (but see the additional potential benefits mentioned above). Bear in mind that if you have solar panels, you can charge the price you pay for your electricity through the grid, even though some of the electricity will be generated through the panels.
- **Can you afford to wait for repayment of the electricity used?** This could be up to 2 months or more? KCC will repay you once the amount owed exceeds £50 but they can be a bit slow.
- **How will you manage bookings for the spaces if this is needed?** This is not likely to be necessary when charge points are first installed but may be as use builds.
- **How will you try to make sure the spaces are not parked in by other users (not for charging)?** Note: you are not required to enforce this and there will be clear signage provided by KCC, but you will want to keep them as free as possible for users.
- **Check that you're happy to have the charge point(s) for 5 years** as KCC will charge you for removal.
- **Be aware that you will not be covered by KCC for insurance claims that arise indirectly from having the chargers,** eg if there is a malfunction of the charger which causes an electricity outage during an event, KCC insurance will not cover you as it counts as an indirect cost (point 8.2 of the licence agreement).

This guidance is based on advice from ACRE but does not replace legal advice on the particular situation for your village hall.

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