

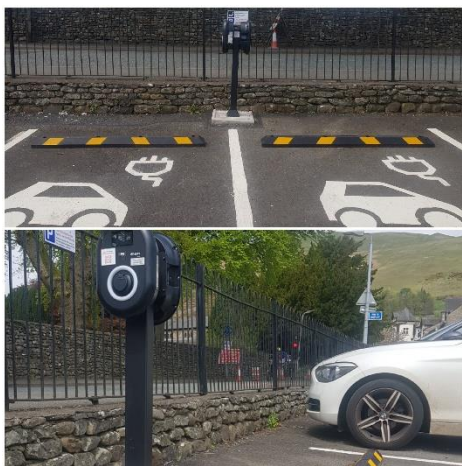
Sedbergh Parish Council – Electric Vehicle Chargers, leading the way for Sedbergh

In 2022 Sedbergh Parish Council began to investigate the introduction of Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers into the town, for use by those living in and visiting the town. The Council wanted to be resilient to climate change by allowing residents and visitors the opportunity to charge an electric vehicle. They also wanted to help promote tourism and the local economy by providing EV chargers. Ultimately, this would underline the Council's desire to give alternative options and help reduce carbon emissions. Recognising that many streets in Sedbergh do not have suitable off-street parking for safe charging, and that there were no public chargers in the area, they began to look at potential funding to support a future project. At the time, there was no support available from the local authority, so the Council began to research their own potential options. Aiming, ultimately, to install EV chargers at Loftus Hill car park and Joss Lane car park – with both public car parks being leased by the Parish Council.

The Council were successful in acquiring substantial funding for the project over several months, with 60% contribution coming from the Government's On-Street Residential Charge point Scheme, with support from Office for Zero Emission Vehicles and administered by The Energy Saving Trust. In addition, critical further grants were also secured from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, Cumbria Action for Sustainability, part of the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership's ambitious emission reduction programme to make Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037. Community Energy Cumbria (CEC) Community Benefit Fund (Sedbergh) and Sedbergh & District Community Trust were also secured, with final contribution from Sedbergh Parish Council.



After the Council were successful in their fund raising, Electricity North West was engaged to complete the connections required to support the new EV chargers (each location also requiring full road closures for the install). And, ultimately - Eon Drive were awarded the contract to install the charging infrastructure. Four fast (22kWh) chargers have now been installed, two located at each car park, and are now operational and included on Zap Map and the National Charge point Registry. They are fully contactless, with no mandatory requirement for an App, to allow them to be easily accessible by residents and visitors.



The Council have seen many cars using the charges, by residents, and visitors, being the first publicly available chargers in Sedbergh. The installation of the chargers also supports Westmorland and Furness Council, and Yorkshire Dales National Park policies for the future of EV charging infrastructure.

The Council will continue to monitor the ongoing campaign, by FairCharge, to reduce the mandatory VAT charged at public chargers (currently 20%) to 5%, in line with home charging.