

Press release issued on behalf of Newton Abbot Town Council

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## EV chargers set to get a boost in Newton Abbot

DRIVERS of electric vehicles (EV) could soon be making a beeline for Newton Abbot to take advantage of ultra rapid chargers being considered by the Town Council.

The authority is looking into adding six of the devices at Newton's Place, the council-funded museum and community space in Wolborough Street.

Government statistics suggest the number of fully electric cars in the UK rose nearly 80 per cent in the last year with almost 40,000 registered in March 2022 alone, more than during the whole of 2019 and amounting to 16 per cent of the total vehicle market.

With a ban on new diesel and petrol vehicles due in 2030, Town Clerk Phil Rowe told a meeting of the Full Council last Wednesday that his initial investigations had unearthed schemes which would both deliver chargers and generate income to help fund council services.

Members instructed him to conduct further research and submit a report later in the year.

Afterwards he said: 'We know that companies are keen to increase the number of charging stations and will actually cover all the costs themselves.

'What's more, if we had them installed in the car park next to Newton's Place we could receive rent and, potentially, a share of the profits.

'If that's correct, it's a no-brainer.'

Mr Rowe said the rapid chargers would benefit visitors and residents alike.

'During the day, people using the chargers will perhaps nip into the town centre for a coffee while they wait but, in the evening, residents unable to charge at home can use ours, I'm sure they'd welcome that.'

Former local motoring journalist Nigel Canham, now an independent communications advisor, is an EV driver and used to hunting high and low for power.

'Rapid chargers are the holy grail for EV users but there just aren't enough around,' he said.

'I'm certain drivers will head into Newton Abbot to use them, thereby boosting the economy because they'll visit town while waiting the 45 minutes or so that a charge takes.

'We've got to turn our backs on polluting fossil fuels, I'd back this scheme to the hilt.'



Caption: Home charging (pictured) isn't available to everyone. Installing rapid public chargers at Newton's Place would benefit residents and visitors alike.

'Knowing the locations of rapid chargers definitely has an influence on the routes taken by EV drivers, it certainly has on me,' said Nigel Canham.

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