

Electric Vehicle On-Street Charge Point Parking Policy

March 2024

Introduction

This policy was agreed by Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Cabinet in March 2024 in order to regulate electric vehicle (EV) charge point parking on-street within Warwickshire, and support uptake of EVs across the county. This policy sets out WCC's standard approach. However, exceptions may be considered in particular locations or circumstances where an alternative approach would be beneficial.

Previously, when EV ownership was much lower, that uptake did not necessitate each parking bay adjacent to a charge point to be designated for use only by EVs by way of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) supported by accompanying signage and road markings. Now, with EV ownership rapidly increasing across Warwickshire, it is advantageous to ensure that new and existing on-street charging infrastructure is accessible and available to EV drivers by imposing limitations upon use of the adjacent parking bay by way of TRO. In making these changes, the policy supports the Council's stated aim to move towards Net Zero carbon by 2050, and complements the Council's Sustainable Futures Strategy. This policy is intended to support that aim, while also providing residents and visitors with better access to on-street EV charge points, in order to reduce incidents of access to charge points being blocked by petrol/diesel vehicles (an increasing concern across Warwickshire).

This policy is an addition to WCC's Parking Policies, adopted in July 2007, which continue to apply.

Policy Statement

In order to ensure parking bays alongside EV charge points on-street in Warwickshire are used only by EVs, WCC will propose implementing restrictions by way of a TRO, limiting waiting in EV bays for the use of EVs that are charging.

A proposed TRO (an EV-only TRO) would seek to designate the relevant bays as "Electric vehicle recharging point only", allowing enforcement against vehicles misusing the bays. This approach aims to prevent inappropriate use by non-EVs, while also promoting shared use of the bays amongst EVs by requiring them only to be used while charging.

An EV-only TRO would apply in addition to any existing parking restrictions present at EV charge point sites. In areas of unrestricted parking, an EV-only TRO would be implemented only on the EV charge point bays. This will maintain a system of parking restrictions that is easily understood by users and enforcement officers.

The policy will also help to address road safety concerns that have been raised at EV charge points, by making EV bays more visible to road users. Easier access to the appropriate parking bay next to a charge point will also reduce the incidence of lengthy trailing cables on the highway, and the trip hazard this may present.