



Electric car chargers on the street: how do they work?

By Mike Coles

Many readers will have noticed the circular fixtures with lights that are being installed along pavements around East Finchley. These are pavement-level on-street electric vehicle (EV) charging points of a particular unique design supplied by the Scottish company Trojan Energy.

Barnet Council secured a £5.19m government grant from the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) who will pay for 60% of the total project costs of installing 1,293 EV charge points. Trojan Energy is installing them.

Are the charging points borough-wide or just in N2?

Robert Poole: The latest round of installations represent phase 2 of the Trojan project. Phase 1 saw the installation of 463 Trojan Energy units across 33 sites; phase 2 will build on this by installing 793 charge points across 65 sites across the borough.

When will they be online and how will motorists be notified?

Phase 1 of the project is now live and operational. Installations for phase 2 will be taking place between now and April 2024, with the commissioning taking place once individual sites are finished. Residents will be notified via a targeted letter drop and social media posts. The council will also be getting in touch with residents who have previously requested a charge point, and will be updating its webpages accordingly.

Who will provide the 'lance' that pavement-level points need and how much will they cost?

The distribution of the lances will be controlled by the council but will be done by Trojan. A resident will be asked to provide a deposit of £100; however, this will then be provided as charging credit and taken off the first few charges. In order to sign up to

the system and secure a lance, residents should visit: <https://trojan.energy/hub-locations/london-borough-of-barnet>

Are other charging points from different suppliers being installed in Barnet?

Barnet already has 200 lamp column charge points and 16 freestanding charge points within town centre locations. Additionally, between now and April, the Council will also be installing 500 lamp column charge points, the locations of which will be based on resident request, and up to 120 JOLT charge points.

What charging rate will the pavement-level chargers give and how much will it cost?

They will provide charging speeds of up to 22kW. The current tariff on the phase units is £0.45/kWh. However, this will be kept under review and change in line with wider energy prices.

Will the road adjacent to the chargers be painted 'Electric Vehicles Only' and will there be fines for non-electric cars parking there?

The number of charge points installed means that we do not envisage having to dedicate bays as EV-only, meaning that the parking provision for residents will remain the same. We therefore do not foresee the installations as causing significant issues with congestion or loss of parking as we are not planning any changes to existing parking arrangements.

Thank you to Cllr Arjun Mitra for his help in sourcing this information



Pavement power: One of the new street chargers in action

But how can you get the power from the surface fixture on the pavement into your car? Apart from parking near the charging point and having an account, you will need to carry what Trojan Energy calls a 'lance' in the boot of your car. This is a device which looks a bit like a stirrup pump that plugs into the pavement fixture and has a cable that plugs into your car. Following a simple procedure and checking coloured lights, you press the plunger and make a connection.

The Archer asked Robert Poole, the EV Infrastructure Service Manager at Barnet Council, for more information on these pavement-level electric vehicle charging points and his plans for future installations.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Digital explosion

By Peter Hale

Barnet's Streetscape Design Guide encourages global advertising companies to install large stand-alone advertising units, for a 15-year contract, on our pavements to support revenue generation for the council. The Design Guide deems this "as part of commercial success".

With the current installation of 793 electric vehicle charge units in our residential streets, there is inevitably disruption during the works, but at least they are flush with the pavement when not in use. However, as part of Barnet Council's investment to provide for residents' electric vehicles, they have quietly slipped into the contract the installation of 120 Jolt EV charge units, to be installed on the pavements in Barnet's high streets.

These units are the same large black advertising hubs already cluttering our pavements, for example outside Budgens and Iceland. They are justified by the council as they incorporate an EV charge unit, so we will end up with more advertising units blighting our pavements.

Each Jolt unit is required to have a planning application, so it is possible to object to a particular installation – but a statement from Barnet Street Scene Service in each application threatens that, if planning permission were refused, this would impact the council's EV charge point programme and the council's ability to secure funding in the future.

Advertising units are proliferating on high streets in the borough. Are we content that the council makes money from this physical and visual disorder intruding on our pavements or should we send the council a message that we want revisions to the Design Guide so that future generations enjoy an improved pedestrian environment?

East Finchley seems to have its quota of advertising units already so probably will not get the Jolt charge units, but I have sympathy for other areas of the borough who have to take some of the 120 on their high street pavements. Barnet Council's motto is caring for people, our places and the planet, let's ask the council to put their words into practice, pavements are for people.



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Boxed up: Staff at CW Andrew pharmacy collect items for Ukraine

Hand in items for the punishing winter

By Lynn Winton

Family-run pharmacist CW Andrew is among those supporting the winter push to get aid to people in need by accepting donations for local initiative Driving Aid to Ukraine. The charity is the brainchild of Lynmouth Road resident Michael Byrne, whose career, spanning many roles in delivering healthcare both in and out of the NHS, provided him with the skill sets to be especially well placed to organise aid.

"We have now delivered over 200 tons of vital humanitarian aid over 18 journeys," confirmed Michael, whose last transport run was on 18 November. Such is the charity's reputation for speed and logistics, they have now created partnerships with other countries, including

France and Italy, to help them deliver goods too.

Michael and his collection team, led by Springcroft Avenue resident Nicola Cousins, will collect or accept delivery of any lightly used clothing, bedding, new toiletries and medical aids. With the Ukraine's punishing

cold winter on its way, anything warm is especially welcome. The full list of items can be found on their website driving-aidtoulkraine.org. Michael can be contacted on 07791 912389 and Nicola by email at nicola-cousins0812@gmail.com