

Proposed "Electric Vehicle Charging Only" Parking Bays in Bampton.

Objection on behalf of the Management Committee of Bampton Village Hall.

The committee is the Management Committee for the Bampton Village Hall Charity, Charity No. 291659. The committee understands the need for charging points in the Village but objects to the loss of any parking spaces in the Market Place. The Management Committee wishes to maintain its objection to the revised allocation of electric vehicle charging spaces as this proposal will still see a reduction of much needed parking spaces.

Bampton is identified as a Tier 2 Service Centre in WODC Local Plans. Many of these services are close to or in the Market Square including; the Village Hall, Coop Supermarket, Post Office, Hotel/Restaurant, 2 pubs, 2 coffee shops, 3 hair/beauty salons, Bampton Charity Shop, a Barber, a solicitor and West Ox Art.

Apart from on street parking, other parking facilities in the village are limited to the Market Square, which has a 4 hour parking restriction, and Lavender Square (unrestricted). There is a regular turnover of cars coming and going making good use of the limited parking spaces available. The loss of parking spaces to accommodate the proposed 3 Charging Only Bays would jeopardise the success of these services and raise questions of the future viability of some of the businesses and charities.

The last accounts for Bampton Village Hall, Charity No. 291659---show a deficit of £1169 for the year ending 31st December 2025. The rental income no longer matches the increased running costs of the Hall and the loss of any regular income would be a serious blow to the long-term finances of the Charity. The Village Hall is an important centre for the community and surrounding area and on average is used for around 20 hours per week. Regular users include: Age Concern Fitness, Bampton Singers, Ballet and Yoga Classes, Cinema Club, W.I., Bingo, Badminton, Aunt Sally, Scottish Dancing and Gardening Club. In addition, there are regular sales, private hiring for children's parties and other social events. We are told by users that parking is, at times, already difficult. Many local people walk to the hall but those running activities, less mobile residents and many others coming from outside the village need parking spaces.

The Village Hall Committee recognise the need for charging points in the Village but taking valuable parking spaces would be detrimental to the Charity, amongst other interests. We know that alternative sites have been suggested by various parties and request that OCC consider all sites around the Village in conjunction with the Parish Council and all those who will be seriously affected by the current proposal.

Richard Smith

Treasurer and Trustee, Bampton Village Hall