



Cllr Barrie Spencer  
Bickleigh Parish Council

By email

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

In the run up to the December 2019 election (seems a lifetime ago) I made promises about investing more effort into supporting actions in the South West Devon constituency that help protect our environment.

I have previously set out my ambitions to work on five areas to help towards this:

- To assist in the fresh generation of green energy locally, both micro and macro. I am aware of at least two major schemes behind the scenes that would give us a real boost if they become reality.
- To see a significant increase in the number of charging points for green vehicles in this constituency.
- To gather landowners and farmers (including hill farmers) together to share best practice of sustainable land management. With the advent of a new post Brexit way of supporting farmers we have the opportunity to develop innovative ideas to preserve and improve our environment.
- To significantly upgrade and improve the discreet cycle lanes in this area for both commuting and leisure use. My recent terrifying experiences as a new cyclist will guide me on this!
- And an update fifth pillar - ensuring that our marine environment is as protected and enabled to play it part in tackling climate change.

My team have put together a map of the electric vehicle (EV) charging points publicly available across South West Devon and it shows the reality of the current situation. We found just a dozen locations, the majority of which were along the A38 corridor. If you happen to live to the south or north of the constituency, you are miles away from the nearest charging point making the feasibility of having an electric car much harder.

As part of my election pledge, I want to see the number of EV points across the constituency double and this is where you come in.



I believe that if we work together, we can continue to boost the infrastructure required to enable communities like yours to promote the use of electric vehicles. Not all homes have space to install their own private charge point and that is why it is important that as local leaders, we do all we can to ensure as many residents as possible can switch to an electric vehicle in due course through public infrastructure.

The good news is that there are companies who will work with local communities and Parish Councils to install charging points in local car parks and community hubs. One example is where they lease a parking space in a local car park and then install and run the charging point. It is also possible to install EV charging capabilities into lamp posts. In addition, the Government is running a scheme which I believe the Secretary of State for Transport wrote to you about earlier this year - 'the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme' - with a £20 million pot to support public authorities like yours.

I would be pleased to hear what plans you have to boost the number of EV charging points in your Parish Council area. I am also offering my support to help you make the most of the schemes available to fund the installation of further charging points and residential on-street charging points. I have also written to Ivybridge Town Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and South Hams District Council with the same offer.

Yours  
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