



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3rd June 2019

Bexley Labour calls for review of Electric Vehicle Charging Bays Decision

Bexley Labour's Group of councillors have unsuccessfully attempted to "call-in" a decision made by the Conservative council to introduce electric vehicle charging bays across the borough. Labour councillors wished to ask the Cabinet Member Peter Craske to review the decision and install bay, but also consider measures that could be taken in conjunction to support traders at a number of the locations where the bays will be introduced.

In order for a decision to be reviewed, half of the members of the relevant scrutiny committee are required to support a request and unfortunately no Conservative councillors were willing to support the request for a review of the decision made by Labour councillors Stef Borella and Sally Hinkley.

While Conservative councillors have suggested a post implementation review could be taken later in the year, the refusal to support the call-in means that the changes could impact on traders and residents following implementation.

The proposals agreed by the Cabinet Member will see 26 electric vehicle charging bays introduced in 13 locations, following a consultation period where residents, ward councillors and businesses raised comments and objections to the proposals.

Councillor Sally Hinkley (Belvedere Ward) said "It is clear that concerns were raised regarding the loss of parking bays in busy locations when changes to parking arrangements in a number of locations could have provided electric charging bays, while the current levels of parking could have been maintained. Labour councillors suggested proposals which would have ensured this happened in Nuxley Road and Picardy Street, but these proposals were ignored."

Councillor Stef Borella (Slade Green and Northend Ward) Shadow Spokesperson for Transport said "We are concerned that the Cabinet member has not listened to any of the concerns made during the consultations and has proposed no amendments to the original proposals. We wanted the opportunity to ask that he thinks again, and it is disappointing that no Conservative councillors were willing to support our request."

He continued "While we support the introduction of electric vehicle charging parking bays in Bexley to promote more environmentally friendly vehicles being used, they must be in the right location and take account of the needs of residents and businesses."

-ENDS-

BEXLEY LABOUR GROUP PRESS RELEASE



Notes to editors

- Electric Vehicle Charging Bays will now be introduced in thirteen locations at:

Bellegrove Road, Welling; Blackfen Parade, Blackfen; Danson Lane, Welling; Erith Road, Barnehurst; Methuen Road, Bexleyheath; Nuxley Road, Belvedere; Picardy Street, Belvedere; Sandford Road, Bexleyheath; Sherwood Park Avenue, Blackfen; St Johns Road, Sidcup; The Oval, Blackfen; Walnut Tree Road, Erith and Waterside, Crayford

- The Cabinet Decision on this item can be viewed at <http://democracy.bexley.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2811>
- For further information, please contact Councillor Stef Borella on Stefano.borella@bexley.gov.uk