

Electric Car Charging

Two years ago the Board investigated the availability of government grants for electric car charging. The "gatekeeper" was Nottingham City Council. Contact was made and an onsite meeting held. Then they went totally quiet and further contact could not be made at all. Subsequent Council publications and Evening Post articles have made it clear that they are focussing on rolling out car charging points in Council owned car parks.

The Board, advised by FHP, who have done a lot of investigative work for the Arena Apartments, have reviewed provision of electric car charging, despite the grant situation. The fundamental concept that we have adhered to, is that if we enable charging points then the solution must be available to all leaseholders, not just early adopters.

This rules out "private" arrangements in the City Point Garage running wires from individual flat meters to allocated parking spaces. We would end up with a tangle of wires and whilst the meters are in the garage the consumer units are in the flats. It would not be a feasible solution at all to the RSH parking places outside in the grounds.

We could consider putting in charging points, say one between every two City Point car parking spaces, from the Company's electricity supply with a recharging arrangement via App or card for usage. The electricity supply to City Point is not adequate to support so many points being used. The Arena were quoted hundreds of thousands of pounds, to upgrade their supply in such a situation. This same electricity supply constraint applies to "private" power supplies as more and more come to be installed.

FHP had a specialist installer look at RSH and CP and they could only reasonably see the feasibility on site being the car wash area, creating two charging bays but the external tap would have to be removed or relocated as they are not permitted near a water supply. The difficulty with offering two points for the site is how to fairly manage use for residents particularly if the number of cars demanding electricity exceeds the two bay charging availability. Such charging points with recharge facility cost in the tens of thousands of pounds.

FHP are not convinced that there is the technology at the moment to service existing apartment blocks with a delivery that is practical, cost effective or fair to all potential users.

16 May 2019