

Hi Katie

Hope you're well. Just a quick note relating to this application, which our team was consulted on, relating to the installation of a charging point.

We would support this application, as it accords with the general Town Centre and Economic Development policies in the Core Strategy, the Rayleigh Town Centre Area Action Plan and Economic Growth Strategy, in making Rayleigh a more attractive location to visit for shopping, leisure and business purposes, and is an important step in ensuring Rayleigh is welcoming to drivers of electric vehicles, who will be an increasing segment of the market in years to come. Such points feature on a national online database called 'ZapMap', meaning everyone with an electric vehicle can see there is a charging point here to stop off at. In this way, such charging points can attract visitors to town who may not have previously visited, and whilst they are charging there is the potential for them to visit local shops, cafes etc, supporting wider high street vitality. Given the location of the charger, there is also potential to support Rayleigh's tourism potential, being close to the Windmill, Rayleigh Moutn National Trust site, and a short walk from Rayleigh Town Museum.

We have been involved in a number of ongoing discussions about the future of town centres in the district, and it is imperative that our high streets embrace technological change and do not become stuck in the past – EV charging points are one small step forward in this respect.

It should be noted that whilst we support the principle of the charger, we are not making comment on the exact siting of it in relation to pavement, parking spaces etc, and would defer to ECC Highways on these specifics.

Kind regards

Dan

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