

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1	David Royle, on behalf of the Sustainable Sawbridgeworth Community Group, to ask Cllr Tim Hoskin, the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability
Several years ago, Sawbridgeworth was promised EV charging points in Bell Street car park and preliminary work was carried out. Can we please now have a definitive timetable for their installation?	
Response from Councillor Tim Hoskin	
<p>Thank you for your question. Like you, I am very eager to see new electric vehicle charging points installed in East Herts Council's car parks across the district including, of course, Bell Street car park in Sawbridgeworth.</p> <p>Unfortunately, as you know, the previous bid to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles, which included Bell Street, was unsuccessful. Furthermore, using s106 monies to instal ev chargers on a site-by-site basis, as has previously been considered for Bell Street car park, means that only a very limited number of chargers could be installed across East Herts. As the council has very limited capital funds of its own, only areas with access to s106 resources would potentially benefit from this approach when really we need a district-wide solution.</p> <p>Thus, the council has embarked on a new approach which will see a commercial operator instal ev chargers in the council's car parks at no cost to the council. In addition, the provider would pay an</p>	

annual fee to the council for use of the car park bays. We'd like to promote this to village halls too. When engaging a commercial operator like this, as you may imagine, it is imperative to take the time to get the procurement process right and establish robust terms and conditions. We are currently in the middle of this process and so, unfortunately, I cannot give you a definitive timetable for installation of the ev chargers at Bell Street car park or any other location. That said, I am confident that Sawbridgeworth will be one of the first locations to benefit from this new contract in 2024/25.