

Alton Climate Action Network
QUESTIONS TO EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
Full Council Meeting 11 January 2024

1. Question about EHDC action on food and farming

We are very much looking forward to hearing the council's future plans for the Grow Up project in the first half of 2024, however we are also concerned about the slow progress and small scale of what has been achieved so far.

The first objective of the EHDC Grow Up project is:

To create a safer, healthier, and more active East Hampshire supported by healthier and sustainable diet choices.

EHDC are fully aware from the recent PeCAN-ACAN report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions, that agriculture (mainly livestock) is the third most important source of territorial Greenhouse Gas Emissions in East Hampshire, after energy and travel. The excess land and water required for livestock farming has been well documented as has the amount of land that could be freed up to grow other crops if we reduced our reliance on meat and dairy products. We in ACAN would like to see EHDC commit to doing more to:

- Incentivise local livestock farmers to reduce the size of their herds and to diversify into growing foodstuffs for humans to improve our food security as well as providing a healthier and more sustainable diet for local people.
- Promote the benefits of cutting our meat and dairy consumption for:
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 - Sequestering more carbon back into the soil
 - Improving our health and wellbeing, thus reducing demand on the NHS
- Work with town and parish councils and local community groups to raise awareness and support actions to bring the benefits mentioned above to people around the district – for example by setting up roadshows, etc.

Can you confirm that these actions will be included in the revised climate strategy currently in progress?

Many thanks

Keith Shepherd

On Behalf of ACAN

For reference:

<https://stockfreefarming.org/>

<https://www.farm-ed.co.uk/>

<https://toats.uk/pages/about-us>

2. Question regarding the lack of provision of EV charge points in Alton

You will be aware that the Genie Point EV charge post in Manor Way Car Park, GU34 1FG has not worked since May 2022. On investigation we have been advised that EHDC and Genie Point are well aware of this problem but are unable to obtain the spare parts necessary to effect a repair. This leaves Alton with only the slow chargers (7KW) at the Leisure Centre to serve the whole town.

Looking at the comments left on ZAP map – the go to app for information about charger locations, types, speeds and operational status – it is clear that although there are 4 parking spaces allocated to these 2 charging posts it is only possible to charge one car from each post at a time and they often charge at a slower rate than the 7KW they should be capable of.

This means that Alton is very poorly served for EV chargers, and this is causing serious frustration amongst EV drivers, as evidenced by the comments on ZAP map against the Manor Way chargers. In the year and half, it has not been working, many messages have been left urging people to contact Genie Point, EHDC and Hampshire County Council all to no avail.

The result of this lack of chargers is that custom for our shops and cafes is being driven elsewhere to places that are better provided.

Alton is a tourist destination town, with our steam railway, museum, gallery and proximity to Jane Austin's house in Chawton, so ought to be a regular stop off point for EV drivers looking to break a journey or to charge while they enjoy our facilities, ready for their onward or homeward journey. Instead, we can only look enviously at Bordon which has chargers available for public use in 5 different locations with different charging speeds of 7KW, 22KW and 50KW.

We are therefore asking EHDC to provide:

- At least 6 chargers at the Bank car park next to the Community Centre where many people come to attend their leisure classes and events, also convenient for the gallery, museum and library.
- At least 6 chargers at the Station car park for use by visitors to the Steam Railway
- At least 2 chargers in the Chawton car park for use by visitors to Jane Austen's house

These by the end of 2024.

- It would be good to see chargers put in for the taxi company at the station to enable them to convert their fleet to electric thereby cutting their emissions.
- Chargers in the new LIDL store car park
- Chargers to be a standard requirement in all new build estates.

Can you itemise EHDC's plans for new charging facilities in Alton?

Eleanor Hill

Alton Climate Action Network