



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Amy Miller, Clerk to The Parish Council
25 Main Street, Woodnewton, PE8 5EB
e-mail clerk@woodnewtonparish.gov.uk

14th September 2026

Dear Ms Naylor

Proposed EV charging points in Woodnewton

Woodnewton Parish Council is writing formally to express its concerns regarding the proposed installation of public electric vehicle charging points within the village.

The Parish Council wishes to make clear at the outset that it **supports the transition to electric vehicles and recognises the need for appropriate EV charging infrastructure.**

Our concern is specifically with the proposed locations in Woodnewton, the evidence supporting the need for public charging infrastructure in the village, and the process by which these locations appear to have been identified and progressed.

Having considered the proposals and concerns raised by residents, the Parish Council believes that a number of important issues require proper consideration before any installation takes place.

1. Orchard Lane – pedestrian and disability access

One of the proposed locations is on Orchard Lane, where the existing pavement is already extremely restricted, measuring approximately 1.6 metres at its best.

Of particular concern is the effect this could have on a local resident with significant mobility difficulties who uses a mobility scooter. The existing pavement already presents difficulties, and the introduction of charging infrastructure and associated vehicles could further restrict the available pedestrian route and potentially prevent the resident from using the pavement safely and independently.

The Parish Council considers that this is a particularly important issue which should have been fully assessed before this site was proposed.

We would therefore ask the Council to provide details of the **accessibility assessment undertaken for this location**, including the resulting unobstructed pavement width and how the needs of wheelchair and mobility-scooter users have been considered.

2. Orchard Lane – highway safety

There are also significant highway safety concerns regarding the proposed Orchard Lane site.

The location is on a blind bend and there has previously been a serious three-car collision in this vicinity.

Orchard Lane is also regularly used by large agricultural vehicles. These vehicles already have to negotiate parked cars and can consequently be required to move towards the centre of the carriageway when passing through the village.

The introduction of a charging bay could create additional vehicle movements and parking at precisely the point where visibility is restricted.

The Parish Council therefore requests that the Council provides details of the **highway safety assessment and collision data considered when selecting this location**, including consideration of agricultural traffic and visibility.

3. Main Street – St Mary's Church and the historic environment

The alternative proposed location on Main Street is immediately adjacent to **St Mary's Church, a Grade II listed building**.

Woodnewton has a particularly sensitive historic character and the setting of the church is an important part of the village environment.

The Parish Council is concerned that the introduction of charging equipment, signage, road markings and associated infrastructure in such a prominent location could have a significant effect on the setting of the listed building and the character of the historic street scene.

We therefore ask the Council to confirm what **heritage assessment** has been undertaken and whether the relevant conservation and heritage officers have been consulted.

It would also be helpful to understand whether alternative locations were considered specifically to avoid an impact on this important heritage asset.

4. Evidence of demand for public charging in Woodnewton

The Parish Council also questions whether there is sufficient evidence of local demand to justify public kerbside charging infrastructure in Woodnewton.

The village contains approximately **195 dwellings**, and the overwhelming majority of properties appear to have access to off-street parking.

This is materially different from urban areas where many residents have no driveway or other means of charging an EV at home.

The Parish Council is therefore concerned that general assumptions regarding the proportion of rural households without off-street parking may have been applied to Woodnewton without sufficient consideration of the actual circumstances of the village.

We would ask the Council to provide the data used to establish the need for public charging in Woodnewton, including:

- the number or percentage of Woodnewton properties assessed as having no off-street parking;
- the methodology used to establish this figure;
- the projected demand for public charging;
- the criteria used to select Woodnewton for the scheme; and
- how existing alternative charging facilities in the surrounding area were taken into account.

5. Consultation with Woodnewton Parish Council and residents

The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the consultation process.

Our understanding is that the Parish Council was not meaningfully consulted before the proposed locations were identified and that the opportunity for residents to comment has been limited.

Given that the proposed infrastructure will have a direct and permanent impact on the village, we believe it is important that the Parish Council and local residents are given a genuine opportunity to consider the proposals and the alternatives.

We therefore request details of:

- the consultation undertaken with Woodnewton Parish Council;
- when that consultation took place;
- the information supplied to the Parish Council;
- the consultation undertaken with residents;
- the number of responses received;
- the principal concerns and objections raised; and
- how those responses have influenced the proposed locations.

6. Request for the proposals to be reviewed

In light of these concerns, Woodnewton Parish Council respectfully requests that **no decision to install the proposed charging points in these locations is finalised until the issues above have been properly assessed and discussed with the Parish Council**.

In particular, we would ask Northamptonshire Council to:

1. Reassess the Orchard Lane site in relation to pedestrian accessibility and the needs of mobility-scooter users.

2. Undertake or publish a full highway safety assessment of the Orchard Lane location, including consideration of the previous collision and agricultural traffic.
3. Undertake a proper heritage assessment of the Main Street proposal and its impact on the setting of St Mary's Church.
4. Provide the evidence demonstrating the level of demand for public EV charging specifically within Woodnewton.
5. Explain the criteria by which Woodnewton was selected for the scheme.
6. Provide details of the consultation undertaken with the Parish Council and residents.
7. Consider alternative locations which would provide appropriate charging facilities without creating the accessibility, highway safety and heritage concerns identified above.

The Parish Council believes that **support for electric vehicles and support for an appropriately planned charging network are entirely compatible with raising legitimate concerns about the location of individual charging points.**

We would very much welcome the opportunity to work constructively with Northamptonshire Council to identify a solution which meets the genuine needs of EV users without creating unacceptable impacts on pedestrian accessibility, highway safety or the character of Woodnewton.

We would be grateful for a substantive response to the points raised above and confirmation of the next steps in relation to the proposed installations.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Miller

Clerk and RFO

On behalf of Woodnewton Parish Council