

## EV Chargepoint Host Site Case Study:

# Victory Hall, Broughton-in-Furness

June 2020



# Charge My Street boosts local services with first community-owned electric vehicle (EV) chargepoint

## The Opportunity:

The historic market town of **Broughton-in-Furness** is located in SW Cumbria, on the edge of the beautiful English Lake District, with a population of around 500.

Built in 1929, **Victory Hall** continues to be a hub for the town's community events, meetings and entertainment.

Responding to a growing concern amongst the community about a decline in local shops and services, **Duddon Parish Council** identified installing a community electric vehicle (EV) chargepoint at Victory Hall as an important contribution towards helping reverse this trend.

Offering the public chargepoint could be one means of attracting passing visitors to the town, plus of course provide a very useful facility for local residents, particularly those thinking of switching to EVs and who may not have their own off-street parking on which to locate a home chargepoint.

A roof-mounted solar panel array had already been installed at Victory Hall, providing a great opportunity to offer vehicle charging using clean renewable electricity generated directly on site.

## The Solution:

**Charge My Street** was very keen to identify suitable sites for hosting a first phase of community-owned EV chargepoints, to gain valuable experience and prove the potential of the community-owned model. Approaches were made to village halls across northern England to introduce the hosting opportunity.

Duddon Parish Clerk Christine Adams responded quickly and positively to the enquiry, and attended a Charge My Street launch event in Lancaster to find out more. Daniel Heery of Charge My Street then visited Broughton-in-Furness, to explain more about the chargepoint project at a public meeting attended by the local community.

Some of those at the meeting subsequently invested in the community share offer, thereby demonstrating strong community interest and bringing forward the installation of the chargepoint. For Charge My Street this was a very important demonstration of strong community interest and support to halt and reverse the decline in local services.

Evident enthusiasm and support of the Duddon Parish Council from the outset have also been invaluable, showing their commitment by quickly signing the site lease agreement needed to host the chargepoint.

For Charge My Street the existing solar array installed at Victory Hall was another significant positive, linking the EV chargepoint to the clean electricity generated directly within the community, as a further boost to the environmental credentials of the chargepoint installation.

On this basis Duddon Parish Council and Charge My Street agreed in principle to proceed with Victory Hall, as an excellent choice to host a first EV chargepoint.

## Site Summary Details

Location: Cumbria, NW Eng

Type of site: community venue (social)

Installation: 2 x 22kW fast chargepoints

Chargepoint status: operational (from Jan 2019)

## Installation Timeline

Initial enquiry: Nov 2017

Contract signed: Jan 2018

Installation: Sept 2018

Commissioning: Jan 2019

Launch event: July 2019

## EV Charging Statistics

(up to June 2020)

Total charge sessions: 96

Total energy: 306 kWh

Total revenue: £116

## Chargepoint Installation:

After completing their first community share offer in early May 2018, Charge My Street were then able to proceed with this first chargepoint installation in Broughton.

Programme partner **Bay EV** was commissioned to carry out site survey work, in order to assess technical requirements and identify the most suitable location for the chargepoint, immediately adjacent to existing car parking spaces prominently situated at the front of Victory Hall.

One of the biggest challenges proved to be establishing a reliable data connection for the chargepoint, given only limited 4G mobile coverage in that area. Negotiations with the council and others were on-going about the possibility of connecting to the existing network data hub inside Victory Hall, however for security reasons this did not prove possible. Eventually a mutual decision was taken to make use of a separate council broadband internet connection in the hall.

Although these issues did impact on the commissioning schedule, all partners were delighted to launch the new chargepoint in July 2019.



## Operational Experience So Far:

Duddon Parish Council and Charge My Street are both very positive about the experience of collaborating to install and operate the EV chargepoint.

While use of the chargepoint is cost neutral to the host site, on fine weather days drivers are able to charge their vehicles using energy generated by the on-site solar array.

This means that Victory Hall benefits from their government FIT (Feed-In Tariff) subsidies for renewable energy generation, plus derives income from the power supplied to Charge My Street for vehicle charging.

Charge My Street has collaborated with programme partners including Bay EV and **EO Charging**. This has meant that any technical issues have been addressed quickly and effectively.

The Duddon Parish Council Clerk has received training and has access to the chargepoint cabinet, so is able to reset the chargepoint if required.

Charge My Street has also recently recruited a volunteer 'chargepoint champion' to help with promotion to the local community, including distributing leaflets in local shops to raise awareness about the new chargepoint, and over time increase use by existing and prospective EV drivers.

## Driver Case Study

Together with his young family, **Adam Leadbetter** from Ireland visited Cumbria on a 2 week holiday during the summer of 2019.

Adam drives a Renault Zoe, and naturally is always keen to ensure there'll be reliable EV charging facilities in range before making a journey. Ahead of their trip to England Adam had already contacted Charge My Street to ask about suitable chargepoints in Cumbria.

In fact the family's visit coincided with the launch of the very first Charge My Street public chargepoint at Broughton-in-Furness, so Adam and family were even present at the official unveiling, and one of the very first customers to benefit!

For Adam the chargepoint was in a great location, and proved very easy to set up on the mobile app and straightforward to use. This was particularly pleasing after previously faced compatibility and connection issues with other chargepoint networks elsewhere in Cumbria.

Their car was left on charge outside Victory Hall while the family enjoyed a refreshment visit to a nearby bakery & café, making the most of the 'dwell time' while charging.

*"It was great to be able to use the Charge My Street network not only to charge our car, but to stop off in the village which we might not have otherwise done, meaning we could support their local small businesses and meet some really friendly people."*

**Adam Leadbetter**



## About Charge My Street

We have established **Charge My Street** as a community benefit society to install and operate electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints in the community, raising money through community shares. Our demand-led approach gives local people the tools and support to identify and finance their own chargepoints, at locations with the greatest identified need and benefit.

We have already successfully demonstrated this innovative approach by installing chargepoints at two locations in Lancaster, and in two Cumbrian villages.

We are now applying this experience to an ambitious and exciting new programme termed '**SOSCI**' (**Scaling On-Street Charging Infrastructure**), scaling up our proven model to other local authority areas across northern England. Backed by £4 million government funding from Innovate UK, we collaborate with a bigger consortium of partners, committed to installing around 200 new 22kW fast chargepoints across northern England by June 2021.

We are focusing on two main types of opportunity: communities in which there are significant numbers of homes without driveways or off-street parking (particularly terraced housing and flats), and rural areas which often currently lack any public charging facility. Ultimately we want to ensure that everyone living in urban and rural areas is within a 5 minute walk of a public EV chargepoint.

Our project also wishes to test new ways of funding chargepoints through community ownership, based on the successful share offer model already developed by Charge My Street. In some instances, we will also be testing how community renewable energy schemes can be integrated with chargepoints, in order to power vehicles using clean energy generated directly on site.

By expanding the local chargepoint network we will help to build public confidence in switching to EVs, contributing to tackling climate change and improving air quality by reducing vehicle emissions.

 Find out more at [www.chargemystreet.co.uk](http://www.chargemystreet.co.uk)

