

PRESS RELEASE:

Bembridge Parish Council is delighted to announce the completion of Project Pod, the first public highway installation on the island of a new state of the art Dual Electric Vehicle Charging Point called Suki-Dean.

The new Pod is situated outside the Parish Office in Forelands Road, Bembridge which is conveniently located just a one minute walk to the village centre. Although this facility is provided for everyone, it is envisaged that it will be mostly used by those visiting from the mainland where they can park in the dedicated charging bay, spend a couple of hours having a spot of lunch and perhaps do a bit of shopping in the High Street. The Pod has already proven popular even whilst waiting for the bay marking to be implemented (now complete).

Project leader Cllr Stillman said "It is fantastic that Bembridge is leading the way with this Green initiative, and we are confident that as sales of EV's increase (and prices continue to fall) that it will be utilised regularly. Depending on the increase in demand we will consider additional Pods in Bembridge with Steyne Park Car Park being earmarked as the next potential Pod site, however if early indications are anything to go by then the Pod will prove very popular with visitors and demand will outstrip supply.

With the Government's pledge to end new vehicle sales of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2035, and the EV Charging infrastructure growing exponentially, the idea of purchasing an EV is becoming more attractive. In fact, in January of this year, new EV sales were up 200% on the same period a year earlier. The growth of the charging infrastructure nationally is vital to consumer confidence and means that EV owners will not have to be concerned about the lack of charging sites available."

This project would not have been possible without a generous percentage of the cost being covered by Grant Funding, and the assistance and cooperation of the Isle of Wight Council, Island Roads and the contractors JA Dempsey and Berry Electrical who have all worked together to get this project completed. Unfortunately, due to the arrival of Covid-19, some aspects were delayed, and we would like to apologise for any inconvenience to residents during the installation of the pod and/or bay marking. The suppliers of the Pod, Pod Point, have obviously been instrumental in this project and no doubt you will see more of them popping up across the island in the near future.

For further information on the Pod, how to access it, charging tariff and availability, please download the Pod-Point or Plugshare app from Google Play (Android devices) or your App Store (IOS devices)



Cllr Sheila Weedall, Bembridge Parish Council Chairman and Parish Clerks Mrs Jacqui McDade and Mr Mark Pink

