

Our weekly community pages celebrate the fantastic people of Suffolk and north Essex and the stories that show why they are the beating hearts of our communities.

● Your community ● Your news

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Plug In Suffolk - drivers of electric cars can charge up at community centre

Electric vehicle chargers have been installed at the Coddendam Centre.

The installation is part of Suffolk County Council's 'Plug In Suffolk' electric vehicle charging network and the Coddendam Centre's environmental strategy.

The chargers are some of the first in the country offering contactless payment facilities, as well as other payment options.

The centre, near Ipswich, is owned by a charitable incorporated organisation, and currently offers four charge points at 28p per kWh.

Drivers can make use of the centre's activities, local walks, free outdoor gym and recreation

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ground with children's equipment including a zip wire.

Customers can also enjoy a half-price coffee or tea in the Coddendam Community Shop, on production of a photograph of their vehicle charging.

Andrew MacPherson, the Coddendam Centre's chairman, said: "We are delighted to again work with Suffolk County Council and support the Greenest County initiative.

"We also hope to offer local residents preferential rates in 2022 as part of the encouragement to

switch to electrical vehicles."

Richard Rout, deputy leader and cabinet member for finance and environment at Suffolk County Council, said: "The concept of a community charging hub is a first in the UK and another example of Team Suffolk leading the way, as we aim to become Net Zero by 2030.

"I think it is fantastic how staff at the Coddendam Centre have integrated it into local village life.

"This shows just why the Plug In Suffolk community grant has been so popular and effective at making the ownership of an electric vehicle much more convenient for both residents and visitors to the area."



Right, an electric vehicle charging point

Picture: THE CODDENHAM CENTRE

Left, Andrew MacPherson, chair of the Coddendam Centre
Picture: SARAH LUCY BROWN



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