

Naturalis: Halstead Road

Press statement – for immediate use

Plans submitted for “first of a kind” eco-hub infrastructure in Kirby-le-Soken and Kirby Cross.

Kirby-le-Soken and Kirby Cross are set to take a step towards the future and become the first rural villages in Essex to receive a public electric vehicle (EV) charging facility, known as the Halstead Road eco-hub. It will one day replace the forecourts where locals fill up their cars and small vans with petrol and diesel.

The plans now form the basis of a planning application (ref: 21/02181/FUL) that has been submitted by developer, Naturalis, to Tendring District Council. It includes twelve rapid and ultra-rapid chargers and enough solar electricity generation to power around 6,500 typical UK homes. The provision of battery storage will assist the National Grid manage its network.

A ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars takes effect in less than 8 years. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has stated that 700 public vehicle chargers need to be built every single day for the next eight years to meet growing demand. This project would help meet this huge demand, whilst ensuring that rural communities are not left behind.

Alongside these plans, Naturalis will provide a Community Benefit Fund, delivering around £360,000 over the project’s operational life that could support a range of local projects. Tendring Council will also receive more than £75,000 in business rates annually.

With the plans now submitted, Tendring District Council will decide the outcome of the application. Naturalis anticipates a decision from the district council by May 2022.

Matt Partridge from Naturalis comments:

“After a considerable amount of consultation with residents, stakeholders and the council, we are delighted to have submitted our planning application which seeks to bring this ‘first of a kind’ and fully self-sustainable piece of infrastructure to Kirby-le-Soken and Kirby Cross.

“The eco-hub concept is kind to both our pockets and planet Earth. Solar power produces some of the lowest and most stable electricity prices in the UK while helping to tackle climate change. The project would directly power our cars and homes at source in Kirby Cross and Kirby-le-Soken. We believe that it’s a win, win for everyone.”

[ENDS]