

Task and Finish Project (T and F Project) – Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADs) - Update

Background

The WHPC at the 7th January 2022 meeting (22/011 b(iii)) approved Terms of Reference for this T and F Project, liaison with South West Ambulance Service Foundation Trust (SWASFT) to acquire two Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADS) and a budget of £4,500 plus VAT. An update was provided to the WHPC at the 1st February 2022 meeting (22/037) where it was agreed the Memoranda of Understanding with SWASFT could be signed. At the March meeting (22/063) it was noted that the first defibrillator would be placed at the West Hill British Legion Club and agreed a second defibrillator would be placed in Eastfield.

Site 1

With the cooperation of The West Hill Royal British Legion Club (WHRBL) one CPAD was positioned externally at their premises on Thursday 24th March 2022 and is now operational. As agreed at the March meeting the Chairman has formally written to the WHRBL to thank them. The WHPC Chairman has signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Dave Underwood of the Club has agreed to be the Guardian of the CPAD undertaking the required checks.

See Photo overleaf that Dave Underwood has placed on FaceBook What's On In West Hill.

Site 2

At the March meeting in the absence of another site, it was agreed to install the second CPAD at 11, Eastfield. The second CPAD has been paid for now and it has been delivered ready for installation on Thursday 31st March 2022. The WHPC meeting will be advised if this has occurred and the CPAD is operational. The Chairman has signed the Memorandum of Understanding for this CPAD and Cllr Della M CANNINGS QPM will be the Guardian.

Both CPADs

The arrangement with the Ambulance service is for these CPADS to be available until 23rd March 2026, so prior to that date decisions will be required as to whether to continue the arrangements with replacement of CPADS. The battery life is 4 years and no doubt by then a newer model will be available, of course, the costs will have to be considered again.

Copies of the Memoranda of Understanding are awaited from SWASFT.

Installation

James Rayner of JR Electrical Services, West Hill volunteered to install both CPADs free of charge. When the work is completed a thank you letter will be sent to him.

Site 3

If a further suitable site is located then WHPC could purchase a third CPAD for £1000 plus VAT up until 23rd March 2023. A site around Higher Broad Oak Road and Hawkins Lane or Brackendown would be good.

¹ For information – if someone in the village calls 999 for an incident at which it is considered a CPAD could assist, then the caller will be advised of a CPAD that is within 200 metres of their location. It is therefore important to keep the Community advised of all CPAD locations within West Hill.

There are also Defibrillators available in the porch of the Village Hall, and one at the Primary School.

Task and Finish Group

Once the second CPAD is operational then the terms of reference of the T and F group are complete and the Group should then cease to exist.

The on-going management can then be handled by the Chairman and Clerk. It is pleasing that the work has been achieved and before the set deadline of Easter 2022. Any further work with regards a third CPAD can be delivered in the course of normal business. Before the end of the four year period there may a need for WHPC to reconvene a new T and F Group to explore options regarding renewal.

Community First Responders – Ottery St Mary and West Hill

SWASFT recently advertised for volunteers to become Community First Responders - volunteers who support their local community by attending emergency calls ahead of an ambulance. Three volunteers from West Hill have been selected following interview and other required checks and have now undertaken the first part of their comprehensive training. Following further training including shifts on response ambulances a local team will be equipped (including an automated external defibrillator, oxygen etc) and become active. It is not known yet when that will be achieved, but the Council will kept updated.

Decisions

WHPC to:

- a) Note this update on the two CPADs
- b) Thank James Rayner for providing his services to install the defibrillators
- c) Note the opportunity to acquire a third CPAD
- d) Note the end of the T and F Group
- e) Note the update on Community First Responders

