

BARTHOMLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 12TH MAY 2020

INSTALLATION OF A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE PARISH

Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are portable units which allow users to provide high-energy, powerful electric shocks to the heart through pads which are placed on the chest – the shock is called ‘defibrillation’.

Many parish councils throughout Cheshire and the country as a whole have paid for the installation of AEDs in their areas – these payments have either come directly from the councils’ budgets or have been paid for via grants.

AEDs are normally located in public spaces (called ‘Public Access Defibrillators – PAD) and the Parish Council are asked to decide whether they wish to support the purchase and installation of an AED in Barthomley.

As said, parish councils can use a variety of methods to pay for an AED – some councils use money in their reserves and some areas launch fundraising activities.

A further method of funding is via the British Heart Foundation (BHF). The BHF provide grants to part-fund the purchase of an AED.

In applying for such funding, a number of criteria have to be met – these include the following: -

- The AED must be freely accessible to the public 24/7 and must be placed externally in an unlocked and uncoded cabinet
- The cabinet needs an electricity supply so that the defibrillator is at the right temperature in cold weather, to prevent the battery and pads from deteriorating.
- There must be a clear need for the device (e.g. a location with high footfall or in a rural area).
- There must be a commitment to train the local community in CPR using the Call Push Rescue training kit provided.
- There must be a clear need for funding in order to purchase a defibrillator (private businesses will not be eligible for the package).

Before submitting an application for funding, it is advised that the Parish Council check with the local NHS ambulance service, who may be able to advise on a suitable model, location and cabinet for the defibrillator.

In addition to the above criteria, Members should note that: -

- The funding package does not include an external cabinet, which is needed for the defibrillator.
- If an application is approved, a donation of £600 is required towards the cost of the package (fundraising for this amount does not need to start before your application has been approved).

When an application has been accepted, the village will receive a PAD – models available are the iPad SP1 and the ZOLL AED Plus. As said, cabinets are not provided to store the defibrillator.

In addition, the BHF Call Push Rescue training kit will be provided. This contains equipment to train up to 10 people at a time in life saving CPR skills. Training is delivered by watching the BHF educational film and sessions take around 30 minutes - there is no need for an external trainer to deliver the sessions.

It is normal practice that a group of local residents/volunteers are trained to use the AED/PAD, although – in reality – anyone may be called upon to use the equipment depending on the situation.

At present, the current round for part-funded defibrillators is closed. The BHF hopes to open the next round of funding as soon as possible, but this may be delayed by the pandemic.

The overall cost of an AED/PAD varies depending on requirements, but – as a guide – the cost is likely to be around £800-2,500. As said, the Council/village would have to pay at least £600 of this cost.

In addition to the purchase cost, a cabinet is likely to cost around £500. This would need to be met in total by the council/village.

Members should also note that there are ongoing costs to this – including the purchase of replacement batteries/pads and other general maintenance costs.

Finally, there is the issue of where the AED/PAD would be located – many parishes have used locations such as public telephone boxes, which have been purchased by councils under the scheme operated by BT.

Based on the information set out above, Members are asked to do the following: -

- Note the contents of the report and the implications for the council – namely, the need to apply for part-funding (if required) and the various financial implications set out in the report; and
- Agree (or otherwise) that the Clerk starts the process of working towards the purchase of an AED/PAD for the village

A further report will be presented at the next meeting.