Report of the Defibrillator Working Group to the Parish Council

November 2024

Funding

A monitoring report has recently been submitted to East Suffolk Council for the Enabling Communities Grant that we were awarded in 2022 for a replacement battery, defibrillator pads and defibrillator training.

When recording the cost of these items, it came to light that the cost of one set of defibrillator pads was approximately £50 more than the cost of the pads that were purchased before and after them. This was queried with The Community Heartbeat Trust and they advised that the price of defibrillator pads had gone up substantially when we bought the 2nd set in September 2023. However, they subsequently negotiated a lower price with the supplier by buying larger quantities and were therefore able to pass on the cost savings to us when we purchased the 3rd set of pads in November 2023.

They have suggested that we may benefit from an annual support package @ £165 + VAT per annum x 5 years (£825 + VAT in total).
As per the attached document, this would cover the cost of any replacement pads or batteries that we required during this period. It would also include the loan of a defibrillator if ours was out of service for more than 7 days.

We have spent £549 on replacements pads and batteries since the 2nd May 2023. The Community Heartbeat Trust have said that they can commence the 5 year support package from that date and credit us with the amount we have paid thus far.

Therefore, the cost of the support package would be £276 + VAT and would provide cover until the 2nd May 2028.

The following items are due to be replaced before the 2nd May 2028:

Battery – 2/5/27 – most recent cost £129 + VAT
Pads – 26/2/28 – most recent cost £124 + VAT

The difference between the cost of the support package and the above items is £23.

Bearing in mind the cost of the above items the Parish Council is asked to consider this proposal as it would negate the effects of any price increases and would also cover the cost of any additional pads and batteries if the defibrillator is deployed at any time before May 2028. If the funds are not available, it is proposed that we ask the Somerleyton Award Charities for assistance.

Volunteers

Gerda and I have held an induction meeting with some of the new defibrillator volunteers and a further meeting with the remaining new volunteers is planned for November.

Defibrillator Checks

The weekly checks continue and are recorded on the Webnos system which is accessed by the East of England Ambulance Service. The Annual check has recently been carried out and recorded on the Webnos system - no issues have been identified.

Claire Diggins
Gerda Gibbs