

OXBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Proposal to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and Cabinet to be externally located at the Village Hall

Dear fellow residents,

You may have been aware of the recent proposal to purchase an external cabinet for the Defibrillator currently located within Oxburgh Hall. After discussions during Committee meetings, we ultimately felt that this would be less beneficial to Villagers due to the proposed location and lack of lighting along uneven ground to get to this cabinet within the Hall grounds.

The Village Hall Trustees are now considering purchasing an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and external cabinet for the benefit of villagers and visitors, to be located at the Village Hall. We feel that this location is ideal as it is very accessible, has good lighting and parking and there would no doubt as to where it is, should it be needed. We feel that as this device is for the benefit of the Village, the final decision to purchase should also be made by Villagers rather than solely by the Village Hall Trustees and we would like you to register your preference in this respect.

WHAT IS AN AED, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of premature death, but with immediate treatment many lives can be saved. SCA occurs because the electrical rhythm that controls the heart is replaced by a chaotic disorganised electrical rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). The quicker VF can be treated by defibrillation the greater the chance of successful resuscitation. Seconds count, and the ambulance service are unlikely to arrive quickly enough to resuscitate most victims.

Many SCA victims can be saved if persons nearby recognise what has happened, summon the ambulance service with the minimum of delay, perform basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (particularly chest compressions) and use an AED to provide a high energy electric shock to restore the heart's normal rhythm. Each of these stages is a link in a chain of events that provide the best chance of success, but the critical factor is the speed with which the shock is given.

AEDs are easy to use, compact, portable and very effective. They are designed to be used by laypersons; the machines guide the operator through the process by verbal instructions and visual prompts. They are safe and will not allow a shock to be given unless the heart's rhythm requires it. They are designed to be stored for long periods without use and require very little routine maintenance.

We shall be holding an informal Q&A session with Trustees and District Councillor Mike Nairn on Wednesday 21st November at 6:45pm before the Parish Council Meeting. For those who are not aware, Mike lives in Weeting where an AED has been purchased, and has knowledge of the device and it's benefits.

Should the Village Hall Trustees purchase an AED and Cabinet? You can register your preference at the Q&A session, or by calling Nicola on 327086, or by email to nicola@nicolawray.com by Friday 23rd November. The final result will then be presented to the Village Hall Committee the following week.

We shall be holding CPR Training in the Village Hall on Monday 12th November from 5.30pm to 7pm. These places are limited but for more information and to book a place, please ring Bar on 328730 or Julie on 328141. A further session will be booked if needed.