Laker’s

Church Lane

Hartgrove SP7defib@sky.com December 2021

Dear ALL

**DEFIBRILATOR PROJECT TELEPHONE BOX HARTGROVE CROSSROADS**

I thought I would give you a short update on our defibrillator project.

**Background**

The defibrillator at the telephone box was installed some 3 years ago now and was funded by the local community. Some very generous donations secured the on-going costs of renewing pads and reactivation costs after use. The defibrillator has been deployed 4 times and has always been available to the public at any-time over the last 3 years. This system belongs to the community and is run and maintained by volunteers. The system is overseen by the Heartbeat Trust and South West ambulance service.

**Weekly Checks**

The system is checked weekly by volunteers. Jamie Martin is the coordinator and arranges the weekly rota. If you wish to volunteer as a checker, please let me or Jamie know. The task is not onerous and takes a few minutes once about every 6- 8 weeks.

**Training**

At least 2 full time training sessions have been carried out and we hope another training session will be carried out when conditions allow. If anyone wishes to have a talk through on an ad hoc basis please let me know. Instructions are easy to follow and both sound and visual instructions are available.

**Future Funding**

We are always looking for donations, however small, to maintain the system and the maintenance of the infrastructure. Next year a new battery is required which costs in the region of £250.00. If you haven’t donated before or would be able to make a small additional donation, please let me know. I can pass to you a charity envelope that can be sent directly to the Heartbeat Trust to be credited to our defibrillator project account.

**Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)**

Some of you may be aware of VETS. It is a group of 10 people that are connected by a common number to be called in case of emergency. The system relies on people being available at the time of the emergency and available to deliver the defibrillator to the emergency location. The system is also designed to be used for *any* emergency not just for the defibrillator project but is only funded under the project. One example of use might be for residents in villages and towns in flood areas to be contacted in an emergency.

Our VETS has never been used for any call-out locally since it was introduced and many people have lost the telephone number card. The number is however on parish noticeboards.

In view of this a formal test was carried out earlier this year for the VETS team. The test proved ‘clunky’ and did not give confidence to the team that the system was or would be effective. It was the feeling of the team that there are more effective ways of contacting friends, neighbours or family such as speed dial, WhatsApp, personal radio and direct telephone etc in cases of emergency.

In light of these findings, (lack of use, lack of confidence, individuals using other means of communication and funding) it has been decided to save the costs of renewal of the contract which is due in February 2022. Therefore, we ask all residents to destroy the VETS card and delete the VETS number 01747-612219 from all devices by 31 Jan 2022.

**Summary**

* The defibrillator has been an asset to the community.
* It is run by community volunteers.
* It needs some funding to ensure it is maintained.
* Due to various reason described the VETS system is being decommissioned next

 year.

* Defibrillator training will be reintroduced when the Covid situation allows.

May I thank all the dedicated volunteers, Jamie and Martin for their assistance in running the project which we would not be able to maintain without them. If anyone has any questions, please ask.

Yours

Tim Craven

Laker’s

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PS. Please let me know if you require a funding envelope