

CIVIC AMENITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 25th May 2023
REPORT OF: Events, Projects and Tourism Officer
SUBJECT: Oaklands Park Defibrillator

PART I

Recommendation:

Councillors are requested to consider and decide whether to:

- Agree the cost of the connection and defib as set out in the paper

And note that:

- The Association is looking at options for connecting to a metered supply.
- It may be possible to explore other options with the Association in the locality bearing in mind a defib is shortly to be installed at Little Swans.

1. BACKGROUND

- On the 19th January 2023 the Finance and General Purposes Committee agreed that the Council should pursue working with Oaklands Park Residents' Association to consider a defibrillator being compatible with the Council's existing package, and that determination of a suitable location be led by the Civic Amenities Committee.
- The Residents' Association had written on the 13th January as follows:
We are writing on behalf of the Oakland Park Residents' Association which was formed in 1974 when this award-winning estate was built, with the aim of safeguarding the interests of residents and fostering a spirit of community. At our last AGM it was unanimously agreed that the committee should look into the installation of a defibrillator on the estate. Research suggests that the use of a defibrillator by a bystander can significantly improve the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest so this installation would provide local people with the reassurance of knowing it was available and could potentially save lives.

Having looked into this in some detail, we are now asking the Town Council to consider supporting this installation. We have spoken with the South Western Ambulance Service and understand that the Council provides defibrillators in other areas of town but the nearest to us is at the Waterfowl Sanctuary. We have identified a suitable site at the entrance to the estate where we believe an electrical connection could be made through the existing street lighting and the South Western Ambulance Service suggests that a defibrillator in this location could be added to the Council's existing contract with them. We are advised that the radius within which a defibrillator is beneficial is about 400 metres so an installation in this location would benefit a wider area than that covered by our association, including Coronation Avenue and the school, West Cliff, Teignmouth Road and parts of the SW Coast Path.

We are advised that the cost of the defibrillator on a four-year contract is likely to be in the region of £1200 with the installation costs being about £100. The Association administers funds raised by subscription and receives a contribution from Teignbridge District Council which is used to maintain the appearance and some infrastructure of the estate. Additional funds raised via raffles could potentially enable us to make a contribution to the installation of a defibrillator but we are unable to meet the cost of the four-year contract. In view of the much wider area covered we are asking that the Council consider supporting residents in this area by adding the defibrillator to their existing provision.

Members of our Committee would be happy to meet with you to discuss further how you can support our part of the town in this way.

- In February 2023 CAC resolved that the installation of the defibrillator was supported subject to permissions and licence being obtained.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

The situation regarding the defib is more complicated in terms of connections than had been anticipated and in terms of costs.

a) Permissions

The potential location of the defib is on the pillars in a conservation area and permission was needed from both Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council and information as to whether a planning application needed to be made. Devon County Council agreed to the installation if the defib was not on the front face but on the rear or sides of the pillar. The planning support officer for the District Council advised it did not need planning permission but that thought needed to be given to pedestrian safety and careful consideration as to siting (as per Devon County Council). The Association agreed to the defib being in one of these locations on the pillar.

b) Electrical connections

Initially it was hoped the electrical connections for the defibrillator could come off the grey box on the pillars. The Association and the officer met National Grid on site with that assumption, only to discover it was not their box.



It is a Devon County Highways box so permission was sought from the DCC street lighting team via their Highways Officer. Key wording is shown in red below in the response to the officer:

Hi Angie – I have been in touch with our Streetlighting Team regarding a possible connection onto the electricity supply box, and unfortunately things are not as straightforward with this as you might have hoped.

Below is a summary of the Engineers comments;

*'The pillar cabinet you have shown is for the streetlight mounted on top of the pillar and is an **unmetered supply**.*

As such, the only equipment that can be connected to an unmetered supply has to have an Elexon code. This is a 13 digit number assigned to equipment that unmetered supply customers add to their inventories to be able determine the amount of electricity consumed.

If you use a piece of equipment that is connected to an unmetered supply it must go on the inventory with a charge code so that the correct energy payments can be made to the electricity supplier & I'm not sure if a defib machine has been assigned an Elexon code?

Another issue with utilising this point of supply would be in the event of a fault on the underground electric cables that feed the pillar. Any fault that affects streetlight supplies are not deemed as a high priority compared to the housing network by National Grid (previously WPD) and could potentially be out of service longer (potentially 28+ days) if there was a supply fault.

*From previous experience with defib's the issue with the Elexon code & the potential long time for repairs to faults, **these have always been installed on buildings that have a metered supply** so energy usage can be recorded & in the event of a fault would be looking at having supply restored in hours rather than days or even weeks.*

The bill for the small amount of energy needs also to be accounted for, ordinarily this goes to Devon County Council MPAN number, but as this would be a Town Council owned asset it should be accounted for on their energy usage - they will

need to declare the MPAN number to National grid to ensure payment is captured accordingly'

So in summary Angie – if the unit does not have an Elexon code it will 100% not be allowed to be connected onto the unmetered supply, and even if it does there are additional complications with regards to payment for the energy, and potential risk of outage.

It therefore appears to be a lot more straightforward if the unit was connected onto a metered electricity supply – such as someone's property.

Following this we obtained additional information from SWAST about the defib and sent it to National Grid along with a form for an MPAN, question about the Elexon code and requesting a quote for the electrical supply (which is in addition to the cost of the defib).

National Grid's charge for connection is:

Contestable works: £3726.32

Non-contestable works: £246.00

VAT: £794.46

Total: £4766.78

National Grid was asked if it was on the opposing pillar would that make any difference to cost and the answer was no.

3. WAY FORWARD

Previously all defibs the Council has installed or managed have had metered electrical supply negating the issues of installation as in the quote. In addition, should the option with Devon County Council be possible there is a risk if the pillar lights go out through a fault the defib would be non-operational for some time before the lights were fixed.

Councillors are requested to decide whether to:

- Approve the cost of the connection and defib with confirmation the National Grid will supply the Elexon code. There will be an additional cost of connection from defib to the connection unit (National Grid install) which would need a separate electrical contractor.

Note that:

- The Association is looking at options for connecting to a metered supply.
- It may be possible to explore other options with the Association in the locality bearing in mind a defib is shortly to be installed at Little Swans.

Angie Weatherhead, Events, Projects & Tourism Officer