

# Hatley Parish Council

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## Parish survey – public access defibrillator August 2018

A defibrillator can save a life if it is used on a casualty within five minutes of a cardiac arrest, with the chance of making a full recovery reducing by 10% for each minute after that. In Hatley's rural location, it takes time to get medical help, so a portable community 'Public Access Defibrillator' (cPAD) could have a very important part to play.

The possibility of purchasing a community defibrillator has been on Hatley Parish Council's agenda since May 2016, following a request by an East Hatley resident. The Parish Council undertook a great deal of research with the intention of embarking on this project. However, concerns were raised on a number of practical issues. It was questioned as to whether a defibrillator could in fact be used by residents within the recommended time frame. The Parish Council considered this to be impractical for the majority of residents because accessing a portable defibrillator would be reliant on a second person being present and that person being able to leave the casualty to walk or drive to collect the equipment. A second person present would be required by the 999 call-taker to remain with the patient and may also be asked to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In some cases and from some locations it could take more than five minutes to bring the equipment to the patient. These medical considerations were reviewed, as was the budget for expenditure on existing projects, and the Parish Council decided in January 2017 not to finance this new project in the Parish precept (collected as part of your council tax).

In June 2018 an application was submitted by a resident to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) for a community Public Access Defibrillator. It was felt that a defibrillator would be a vital community asset in such a rural location and by submitting the application this way it was hoped to move things along more swiftly than could be achieved by the Parish Council. However, the application and subsequent proposal to the community for financial assistance failed to meet the BHF's Terms and Conditions, as it required the approval of the Parish Council and the guarantee that the equipment could be accessed by all members of the public and not a select group.

Three options were available that would enable the purchase of a defibrillator and ancillary equipment: 1. For residents to privately fund and own a defibrillator between a committed group of residents. 2. For residents to privately fund and allow limited community access to a defibrillator placed on either private or public land. 3. To seek the permission of the Parish Council to proceed with the BHF's Public Access Defibrillator application and run the project in accordance with Parish Council statutory obligations. Option 3 was preferred by the applicant and therefore at its meeting on 17th July 2018 the Parish Council discussed the practicalities and costs of progressing this project. Further research and considerations were also summarised at the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th August. The Parish Council has also sought the recommendations of the East of England Ambulance Service, other parish councils and local medics, and has weighed up the pros and cons of the various types of equipment available. Hatley Parish Council must now consider the full costs involved to purchase, install, operate and maintain a defibrillator in the Parish.

To this end, we need to find out the level of interest in both acquiring and using a public defibrillator. If you the parishioners feel that this is a good idea the Parish Council is prepared to take this forward. Please spare a few minutes to answer the eight questions attached and return the survey by **Friday 15th September**. You can also print this survey from the Hatley website or ask the Parish Clerk for an electronic copy. *The results of the survey will be shared at the Parish Council meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16th October in Hatley Village Hall to which you are all welcome.*

**Please answer these few questions and return the survey by Friday 15th September to Hatley Shop and Post Office or to one of the Parish Councillors. If this is not possible please contact the Parish Clerk, Kim Wilde on 01767 650596 to arrange collection.**

1. Do you support the proposal to purchase and install a defibrillator in the Parish?

Yes

No

2. How should the project be funded? (Please tick multiple boxes if you think the costs should be shared.)

a. Set-up costs – equipment and installation

Parish precept

Fundraising

Donations by residents

Donations by local businesses

Other suggestions

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b. Operational costs

Parish precept

Fundraising

Donations by residents

Donations by local businesses

**Please note:**

Equipment costs (est. £1,800 - £2,000) include the defibrillator, pads, a battery pack, a cabinet which is secure, weatherproof and temperature-controlled, and signage.

Installation costs are unknown at the time of writing. If the set-up costs are borne solely by the Parish precept (assuming all other income and expenditure remained unchanged) the effect would be a 35% increase in this local tax for 2019-20, which equates to approximately £22-25.00 per household.

Operational costs (est. £100 p.a.) include insurance, administration and maintenance, plus replacements pads and batteries, as required. This equates to approximately £1.25 per household if paid by the Parish precept.

3. Would your household consider contributing financially to support this project if required?

Yes

No

If 'Yes', what do you consider would be a reasonable contribution?

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4. Where do you think a defibrillator should be located?

- Outside Hatley Village Hall
- Outside Hatley Shop and Post Office

5. Would any members of your household be interested in joining a 'Defibrillator Support Group' to help with the weekly inspection on the equipment?

- Yes
- No

6. Would you be interested in attending community first aid training sessions for the following?

a. Training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

- Yes
- No

b. Training to use a defibrillator

- Yes
- No

7. If training in CPR and defibrillator use cannot be sourced free of charge would you be willing to pay a fee to receive this training in a small group in Hatley Village Hall?

- Yes
- No

8. Would you like to make any other comments regarding this proposed project?

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Please provide your details below if you are happy to be contacted by the Parish Clerk regarding the progress of this project, especially if you have selected 'Yes' to questions 3, 5, 6 or 7. Your details will not be shared with others and will only be used for the purpose of this project, if the Parish Council resolves at its meeting in October to proceed.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email address or phone number: .....

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

**Your feedback is very much appreciated.**

Kim Wilde  
Clerk to Hatley Parish Council