

Defibrillators in South Petherton – September 2023

The Background

In June 2023, the Parish Office was sent the message below which we sent to you all for consideration and comment:

Dear Members of The Parish Council,

Last Thursday, one of our members collapsed. Luckily for us he was at the optician's in Ilminster at the time, but if he hadn't had that appointment he would have been at The Shed. I'm glad to say that the ambulance crew were very quick, and they managed to revive him.

The nearest defibrillator to the Cemetery is at Over Stratton Hall, half a mile away. We feel that trying to get onto the roundabout on a busy summer's day is bad enough when you are not in a panic, trying to save someone's life, but it could be really dangerous for someone who is under that stress.

The ambulance service recommend that defibrillators are placed about half a mile apart. We have one at Over Stratton Hall and another at The Blake Hall which is about one mile, and one at The Rec, also a mile from Stratton.

We would like to suggest that another is placed in the porch of one of the Cemetery Chapels. After all, besides The Shed members who are there three days a week, there is always the possibility that a mourner at a funeral might collapse. Then there are all the motorists who are passing by as well.

I understand that the best way of having a defibrillator is to hire one. That way, apparently you are not responsible for maintenance. I'm told that it costs about £25 plus VAT per month from Defib Warehouse.

I would be very grateful if the members of the Parish Council would consider installing one of these machines at the Cemetery.

With thanks, Helen Beaufoy, Martin Bradbrook, Mary White, Steve Burns, Liz Johnson Idan, Sarah Taylor, Freda Paull, Ian Hall, Anna Lilley and the rest of The Shed members.

Your responses are below:

I completely agree we must have more defibs at reasonable centres apart. Bryan

Yes, definitely a good plan. I am personally totally in favour. It strikes me as a very small price to pay. Dave

Gets my full support , regards Steve

Good Evening,

On the face of it, this would be a good use of our resources but I would like to understand the cost of the unit against our budget, from memory is that around £650 per year? We would need to consider the cost against our budget plan.

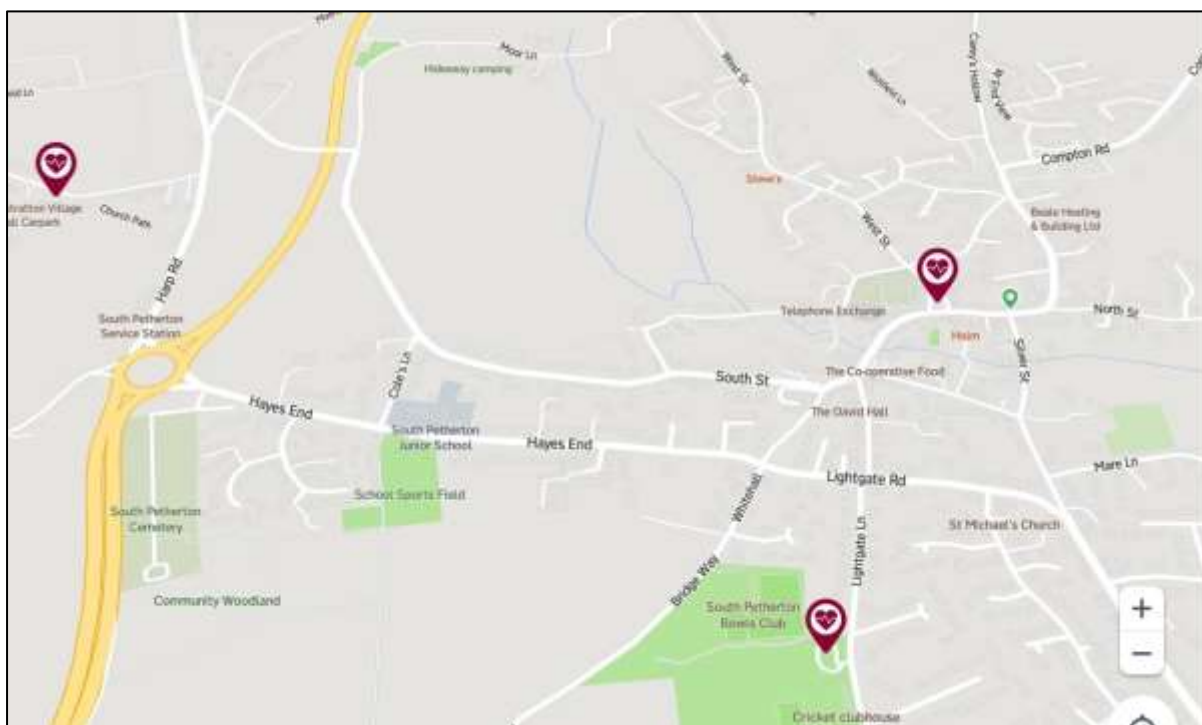
I would also ask that we review this based on the current defibrillator sites we have, I have attached a map to make this easier to view. If we look at the location at the cemetery this is right on the edge of South Petherton and its coverage based on a recommend circle of half a mile would be limited. However, if we located it at the Junior School this would increase the coverage over the populated area of the Parish, including the cemetery.

If we added paediatric pads to the unit this would also allow the unit to be used at the school, should such a situation arise.

Just trying to ensure we have covered all options before making a snap decision.

Kind regards,

Stephen Carp



Hi all I was thinking along similar lines to Stephen, my thoughts are that it would be worth taking into consideration all of the defibs and their sitings, in case there might be a better arrangement to ensure the whole village is covered. Assuming we are limited by cost to having just a few.

Warmest wishes,

Liz

An essential provision, and yes, I agree we need to consider the sitings to maximise availability - Biddy

Additional Defibrillator costs and details

- South Petherton Parish Council currently leases 3 public access defibrillators from South West NHS Ambulance Service.
- SPPC pays for the installation of machines and the Clerks time to carry out the regular checks.
- SW NHS maintain machines and supply replacement pads and equipment when necessary.
- SW NHS contact SPPC when the defib has been used and needs resetting.
- It is the SPPC's legal responsibility to regularly check all machines and report back to SW NHS
- Every defibrillator can be used on all ages including children.
- Installation of defibs needs to be somewhere with a constant electricity supply which is fully accessible to all members of the public.
- Apart from Over Stratton, the outlying areas of the parish (Watergore, Wigborough, Compton Durville) do not currently have easy access to a defibrillator.
- All state funded schools have recently been given a defibrillator by Government <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defibrillator-deliveries-begin-for-all-schools-that-need-one>
- Quote from Jonathan Warren from SWNHS about the suggestion that defibrillators should be every half a mile.. *'We would love to have one every 500 metres however we know that this is an impossible task. For south Petherton, having the three available is really good'*

Current defibs locations:

1. Pavilion at the Rec, TA13 5AU, CALL SIGN SC0365 – This is leased until 9th May 2026
2. Over Stratton Village Hall, TA13 5LN, CALL SIGN SC0228
3. Blake Hall, TA13 5BT, CALL SIGN SC0227 – Defibs 227 & 228 are leased together until December 2024
4. South Petherton Infants School – not managed by SPPC
5. South Petherton Junior School – not managed by SPPC
6. Frogmary Green Farm – not managed by SPPC

The cost for the purchase of an additional defibrillator if you were to add it immediately would be £2160 for 4 years (£540 per year), there is a discount if we wait and add it to the lease that already exists for defibs 227 & 228

The cost to renew our contract in December 2024 (if you were to add an additional defibrillator) is £4560 inc VAT. 3 defibrillators for 4 years.

Local electrician Ed Grabham has previously charged £160 for installation but we would need to get an up to date quote because the cost will depend on where any additional machine is positioned.