

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 5 September 2022

Title: Defibrillator for King George V Field

Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

The Council has an aspiration to site a defibrillator at King George V Field where two of the town's football teams play. The Project Officer contacted the Business and Facility Development Manager from the Oxfordshire F.A. and also the managers of the football teams as there is a scheme in place to partially fund defibs. The teams themselves have to apply and agree to undertake training on using a defib.

Current Situation

The Town Council has already identified a lamppost adjacent to the field in Pensclose and the electrical work has already been carried out – at the same time as that for the defibrillator at the Lake.

The Project Officer has been in dialogue with the clubs but unfortunately neither will commit to making the application. The Town Clerk also spoke to the Business and Facility Development Manager from the Oxfordshire F.A and he confirmed that there was no impetus for this.

Therefore, if the Council still aspires to have a defibrillator at King George V Field, the only option is to pay for one and a heated locked cabinet.

Officer have investigated grant funding opportunities, but these are either not available for Councils or require the defibrillator to be kept in an unlocked cabinet, which would leave it open to misuse and vandalism.

Prices vary according to brands but the average cost is £1,082.00 excluding VAT for a fully automatic defibrillator and £485.00 excluding VAT for a locked cabinet. There would also be a small cost to connect the cabinet to the electrical supply in the lamppost.

At present, there is no availability of defibrillators (possibly due to the global shortage of microchips and the conflict in Ukraine). Some sites state at least 6 – 9 months order time and others state that there is no ETA.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

There are no environmental risks associated with this project.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability. There are no risks associated with installing a defibrillator.

Financial implications

The cost is £1, 580.00 excluding VAT, plus a small cost for connecting the cabinet to the electrical supply.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider recommending to the Stronger Communities Committee whether the Council should fund a defibrillator, when one becomes available for the recreation ground.