

Councillor's Chronicles No.11 – Defibrillator at the Ready

The Parish Council is responsible for keeping a watchful eye on the village defibrillator, which for those of you who may not be aware, is positioned on the front wall of St Andrews School, directly in front of you as you enter the car park.



A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the patient which is called defibrillation and is an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who is in cardiac arrest.



Although there are courses for their use with St John's Ambulance Service, the instructions for use are on the machine and are very clear and easy to understand. It is monitored on a monthly basis by a member of the Parish Council. It was brought to our attention recently that the date appearing on the front of the defibrillator was August 2022 which led some to believe that meant it needed a new battery but we have been assured by the suppliers that is not the case. They do not come out to automatically change the batteries until the green light turns red and even then it will carry on working for several weeks more.

There is another defibrillator at Bedchester crossroads, in the telephone box, but that is monitored separately.

Of course, none of us want the situation to arise where it needs to be used but it is reassuring to know there is one in the village. If an opportunity arises where we can have a second one close by we will inform residents straight away.

Christine Scott, Fontmell Magna PC