

WESTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH, WEST OXFORDSHIRE CIRCUIT

Installation of Defibrillator, Consent Project No: 47291

Introduction

Set out below is a scheme on behalf of the Church Council for the installation of a public access defibrillator on the wall of the church next to the entrance door.

Attached in support of this scheme are:

1. Photographs of the church indicating the proposed position of the unit.
2. Location map
3. Photograph of proposed unit

Listing Details

Wesleyan Chapel, Westcote, Gloucestershire

Listed Building, Grade II

Date of Listing: 28 May 1987

List entry number: 1154178

NGR: SP2248820278

Listing details:

WESTCOTE NETHER WESTCOTE SP 22 SW 2/268 Wesleyan Chapel
GV II Wesleyan Chapel, dated 1852 on stone plaque over the door.

Coursed squared and dressed limestone with a stone slate roof.

Rectangular plan. Single storey. Two pointed-headed lights with diamond leaded panes. Central C19 four-panel door within a pointed surround (with diamond-leaded light over the door). Interior not inspected. Group value with Honeysuckle Cottage (q.v.).

Proposal

Installation of a community public access defibrillator unit on the external wall next to the entrance to the church.

Background

Westcote is a village of two parts, located in the heart of the Cotswolds. The main part of the village is known as Church Westcote, where the Anglican Church and Village Hall are located, and half a mile away is the smaller Nether Westcote, where the Methodist church is located. The area is very popular with walkers, cyclists, and horse riders.

Statement of Need

Earlier this year (2020) an individual on leaving the Village Hall had a cardiac arrest and, despite the best efforts of the paramedics who attended, the individual did not survive. This has prompted two individual residents of the village to raise funds for the installation of two defibrillators, one in Church Westcote and the other in Nether Westcote.

The unit in Church Westcote has now been installed at the Village Hall. The Methodist church has been asked to support the scheme and allow the second unit to be placed on the church, which is ideally located near the centre of Nether Westcote, close to the walking/cycling/horse riding routes through the village. The nearest A&E hospital is 20 miles away and the nearest ambulance station 8 miles distant.

The Church Council wish to allow the defibrillator to be fitted to the wall of the church and provide the necessary electricity supply. This fits with our mission role of serving the community in which we live, as well as serving the wider community that visit the area for recreation.

Statement of Significance

Westcote Methodist Church is ideally located in the centre of Nether Westcote and close to the walking/cycling/horse riding routes through the village. The unit would complement the one at the Village Hall in Church Westcote.

The proposed site next to the entrance is considered the best position in that it is easily accessible but does not detract from the view of the church from the roadway. Other locations, including mounting the unit on a pole somewhere in front of the church, would be significantly more intrusive.

The unit can be attached to the stone wall of the church via the mortar joints and an electricity supply can be easily tapped into. The size of the unit is H 40cm, D 20cm, W 40cm. There will be no additional signage, as people will be directed to the position by the 999 Emergency Service. Should the unit ever be removed, reinstatement of the building would be very straightforward.

Other Matters

The cost of supply and installation of the unit, including cost of connection to the electricity supply, would be met entirely by the two sponsors of the scheme. The only financial burden for the church would be a small charge for electricity to maintain the charge level of the batteries, estimated at less than £10pa.