

SYDENHAM DAMEREL PARISH

Record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at
7.00pm in St Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel.

A total of 23 Residents of the Parish attended the Meeting. Also in attendance was Cllr Neil Jory, the newly elected Councillor for Milton Ford Ward. Cllr Jory introduced himself and thanked everyone who voted in the recent election for taking part in the democratic process. He noted that he was happy to be contacted on any Council issue via the West Devon Borough Council website or his Facebook page.

The Parish Clerk introduced Mr Mike Tagg and Mr Dave Fisher who are both Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Co-ordinators for the Broadmead / Glebelands area of Callington. There followed an interesting presentation on their experiences of setting up and maintaining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in an estate of some 130 bungalows with mainly older residents. They described the poster / leaflet campaign and Residents Meeting that they carried out at the Scheme's inception and the level of response they received. They went on to talk about Police Liaison, intelligence sharing with Scheme Members and the overall benefits of the Scheme. Mr Tagg had prepared a pack of leaflets, posters and associated paperwork which are available from the Parish Clerk to any interested potential Scheme Co-ordinators. Mr Tagg has also passed on contact details of the Police Liaison for Sydenham Damerel Parish (available from the Parish Clerk).

Questions from the Floor

Does the Broadmead / Glebelands area suffer much crime generally?

Response: The location/nature of the estate and average age of residents does not give rise to much in the way of crime but the scheme is very useful in identifying suspicious behaviour /persons/suspect vehicles unsolicited cold-calling and sharing this intelligence with Scheme Members and the Police.

Has there been a perceptible reduction in crime / anti-social behaviour since the Scheme's introduction?

Response: We do not have much crime / anti-social behaviour but we have seen a marked decrease in cold-calling and a number of reports of suspicious vehicles / persons circulated to scheme members and the Police.

What is the time commitment in co-ordinating the Scheme?

Response: There is obviously more time involved in the setting up of the Scheme. Arranging a Resident Meeting and carrying out leaflet delivery / collection of Member contact details but day-to-day running is not onerous and if a number of people share the co-ordination it obviously makes things easier.

The Clerk read out a written question from a resident who was unable to attend. How are expenses, such as telephone and printing costs funded? How much support did they receive in setting up their scheme and what input is given by the Police Authority?

Response: Any incidental expense is minimal and we cover that ourselves. The most expensive purchase was signs for lampposts at around £20 each and we got funding from the Town Council to cover these. With respect to support, the Police are very supportive of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and each Force has a dedicated liaison. Details of the Police Liaison for Sydenham Damerel have been passed to the Parish Clerk. Other than that, it is down to the commitment of like-minded residents to get a Scheme up and running.

The Meeting showed its appreciation and gave the Speakers a round of applause.

The Parish Clerk introduced Miss Mary Ann Forster who is a Hyperbaric Chamber Operator and Training Officer at DDRC Healthcare in Derriford, Plymouth. There followed an interesting presentation on the procedures for using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and a practical demonstration of CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation). There was an explanation, in Layman's terms, of the medical circumstances surrounding sudden cardiac arrest and the statistics for England – around 30,000 instances per year. It was noted that survival without intervention was around 1:10 and that the application of CPR and, in medically appropriate circumstances, the use of an AED, improved the chance of survival significantly. It was emphasised that time is of the essence in the case of such events as there is a decrease in the chances of survival of around 10% / minute of delay. In rural village locations ambulance / paramedic response times are inevitably longer so having Public access to an AED and people with knowledge of CPR can make a life or death difference.

Employing a CPR dummy, a practical demonstration of the current 15 compressions to 2 breaths was given, particularly noting that depressing the sternum by approximately 1/3rd of the chest depth is required to be effective. This is energy consuming and a person is likely to tire after 2 minutes so ideally two people should take it in turns. There are some songs that have the right rhythm for compressions, including “Nellie the Elephant”, “Staying Alive” and (Quietly) “Another One Bites the Dust”!

The contents of an AED pack were explained and a Training AED was used to give a practical demonstration using the dummy. It was stressed that all AED locations are registered with the appropriate Ambulance Authority and a 999 call must be made before using one.

Questions from the Floor

How much does a typical AED cost and who is responsible for their maintenance?

Response: There are various charities that offer sale and maintenance schemes and some Ambulance Authorities are willing to carry out regular checks on Public Access AED's but a basic AED and Cabinet would cost around £1000.

There are three main settlements in this Parish - Sydenham Damerel, Townlake and Horsebridge. Would each ideally have access to their own AED?

Response: That all depends on easily/quickly an AED could be accessed from each location but given the 10%/minute decrease in survivability it would be ideal for each to have their own.

Has anyone been sued for using an AED?

Response: No-one has ever been sued in the UK for attempting resuscitation and you cannot damage someone by using an AED. As explained in the demonstration the unit will not allow you to “shock” someone with a viable cardiac rhythm. If it does advise “shock” then the casualty is effectively “dead” at the time the shock is delivered.

The Clerk read out a question from a Resident who could not attend the meeting. “What are the set-up and running costs? What funding is available for the purchase of equipment? How is it maintained and what happens to it if it is used?”

Response: The cost and maintenance would depend on how the AED is obtained. Lots of additional information is available on the websites of charities such as the British Heart Foundation who can part-fund AEDs in certain circumstances. Funding may also be available via the West Devon Communities Together Fund (previously TAP). AEDs are designed for re-use but pads/batteries must be changed as necessary.

The Meeting showed its appreciation and gave the Speaker a round of applause.

The Parish Clerk was asked to record a show of hands in respect of:

1. Setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Parish – 10 people in favour
2. Obtaining AEDs for the three settlements in the Parish – 18 people in favour

The meeting ended at 8.15pm