

Subject: Putting Devon Air Ambulance at the heart of your community...day and night

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Date: Monday, 21 December 2015, 15:47

Devon Air Ambulance Trust

real people saving real lives

21 December 2015

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Dear Parish Council members

As you may be aware the Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) is working hard towards extending flying operations into the hours of darkness.

Our target is to increase flying hours to midnight from autumn 2016, which means around an extra 8 hours of service each day during the darker winter months. Our vision is to eventually provide our service 24 hours a day and this is a huge step in realising that dream. This will bring a much needed operationally effective service - day and night - to communities throughout Devon.

What do we need to start night flying operations?

The two key things we need are specialist equipment and safe landing sites. Thanks to the generous support of the people of Devon we will shortly be acquiring night vision goggles, spot lights etc needed for one of our helicopters to start flying at night. The team at DAAT are starting to work with communities to develop a network of Community Helipads across the county. These pre-surveyed floodlit helipads will ensure our paramedics can be brought into the heart of your community delivering an essential night-time service.

What is a Community Helipad?

A Community Helipad could take many different shapes or forms – it could be a green, sports pitch or playing field, a school playground, open ground by a village hall or local field and it can be located on grass, tarmac or concrete.

We have developed a range of low-impact lighting solutions that would either work alongside existing lighting arrangements (e.g. street lighting or flood lighting for a sports area) or operate as a stand-alone solar powered system. These lighting options will be operated remotely meaning no one needs to be on hand when the air ambulance lands or takes-off.