

Agenda Item 8

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED's)

Following a suggestion by Councillor Jackson at a previous Council Meeting we have now investigated the issues involved in installing Public Defibrillators in Barrowford.

Official statistics show that nationally 100 thousand people a year lose their lives to sudden cardiac arrest.

There are a number of AED systems available and we have looked into existing installations, talked to users and The British Heart Foundation (BHF) and enlisted the support of the NHS Ambulance Services Community Resuscitation Team.

LOCATION

The linear geography of Barrowford is not easy to cover but the usual policy is to locate AED's where there is a busy footfall. Also it is suggested that one initial installation in Barrowford would be sensible to give experience for later possible further units.

We would therefore recommend that one AED is located centrally at the Fleece Public Toilets – where the electricity supply is relatively easy to access.

THE EQUIPMENT

From a very wide range of equipment available we believe that the purchase of a Cardiac Science package would meet our requirements. It comprises;

- 1) An outdoor waterproof cabinet made in the UK by CE-TEK Controls & Enclosures Ltd
- 2) A Powerheat G5 AED made by Cardiac Science Ltd.

The complete package includes a 7 year warranty, Insurance against theft or damage, supply of adult pads and replacement foc when used or out of date, Training, Posters etc.

A special discounted price for the package is £1495 + VAT (normally £2400 + VAT).

We understand that the VAT is recoverable. The installation cost is fairly minimal.

There is at present a Grant available of £400 from BHF but this is tied to the supply of Zoll equipment and does NOT include the package of support from Cardiac Sciences and we therefore do not recommend this.

Official Quotations from Cardiac Science and also BHF/Zoll and Greenurban should be obtained for comparison and to confirm these figures

MAINTENANCE & SERVICE

Electricity running cost is estimated at 50 pence per month.

Maintenance is minimal since the equipment includes Self-Test hardware and only requires a weekly check to ensure that it is 'ON' - two people are usually given the Access Code to do this check. We can talk to other users for advice and any snags.

REGISTRATION

In order to ensure integration with the Rapid Response Service it is necessary to Register and provide a monthly report on serviceability and usage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We suggest that the Parish Council adopts a policy for the acquisition of an AED package subject to the availability of funds and support by local grant aid or sponsorship.

The alternative may be deferment until the next fiscal year's Budget.

Councillor Eric Jackson

Councillor Royce Windley

15th June 2016

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Clerks Comments: The Council needs to consider the following questions before resolving to install AED's:

1. How many units are there envisaged, where are these to be located, and how will these be funded?
2. Does the Council wish to install and be responsible for the installation and the weekly inspections of several AED's?
3. Do the Health Authority, County or Borough Council contribute to these items of equipment and their provision?
4. If a unit is vandalised, destroyed or stolen, who is responsible for any repairs or replacement or notifying the relevant party?
5. Who will be responsible for inspections and who will carry the inspections out?
6. How will this be recorded?
7. If the AED is removed and used, how will it be returned to the site of origin and who will check that it is still in good serviceable order?
8. What is the limit of the Council's indemnity if there is a perceived failure in either the equipment or the inspection procedure?
9. Will the Council's insurance need to be varied to cover the risk of litigation in the case of failures in either the equipment or the inspection procedures?

Until the Council is happy that the matters raised above are addressed to the satisfaction of Councillors then caution is advised.

Funding: The funding for the first and possibly the second units are not envisaged as potentially problematic with The Barrowford Lifestyle Event possibly willing to fund the AED at the Fleece and County Cllr. Wakeford has also intimated that he may be able to help with the funding from his County Councillor members fund, the Friends of Holmefield House would need to apply and may contribute to the one at Holmefield House subject to approval by its committee.