

Background

The Council agreed in July to commence the project to install twelve defibrillators in the town and to seek financial support from County Cllrs. County Cllrs were positively unanimous in their support and pledged to fund all twelve, two each.

Several locations in each ward were identified that could preferably become custodians of the defibrillators, with the Town Council meeting the cost of install, and consumables in perpetuity.

Some prospects responded positively straight away, and the paperwork has been completed for some time. Some took several months but are now completed, and others responded only in December and January that they did not feel they could be part of the project, either as they had concerns about the defibrillators being on their building, or about being the custodian.

Recently alternative sites have been investigated and thankfully all are positive and very enthusiastic about having the equipment available, and to being part of the project.

Locations

The following locations have been confirmed:

1. Sea Cadets – Black Close Bank, NE63 8TF – Haydon Ward
2. Wansbeck Riverside Caravan Park/The Riverside Pantry - NE63 8TX – Bothal Ward
3. Hirst Welfare Centre – Alexandra Road, NE63 9HN – Hirst Ward
4. Hirst Park Pavilion – NE63 9BA – Hirst/College Ward
5. Seaton Hirst Veterans Institute - Reiverdale Rd, NE63 9AE – Haydon Ward
6. JT Doves – North Seaton Road, NE63 8ST – Haydon Ward
7. North Seaton Colliery Community Centre – Links View, NE63 0XQ – Seaton Ward
8. North Seaton Spar – Meadowfield, NE63 9TR – Seaton Ward
9. B&M Store – Freeman Way, NE63 0YB – College Ward
10. Ashington Spiritualist Church – Hawthorn Road, NE63 9AY – College Ward
11. Salvation Army Church Hall – Second Avenue, NE63 0BJ – Central Ward
12. Hatchmeadow Retirement Housing – Featherwood Drive, NE63 0SE – Central Ward

The Circuit and Guardians

All defibrillators are listed in 'The Circuit,' so that in the event of an emergency, the Ambulance Service can advise of the nearest one, and the access code. When defibrillators are used they are taken off 'The Circuit', until Guardians advise that they are checked, re-stocked and available for use. Guardians are advised by email when defibrillators have been taken out of use.

Every defibrillator has a Primary Guardian – the person responsible for looking after it and making sure it is ready in the event of an emergency. Those with day-to-day access to the locations above will take on the role of Primary Guardian, the Town Council will be listed as the Supporting Guardian.

Guardians check the kit and respond when it is used and taken off the circuit by North East Ambulance Service. Guardians are likely to carry out regular checks, and we will also schedule to check defibrillators on a quarterly basis.

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

AGENDA 14, Enc x)

The Primary Guardian is responsible for keeping the defibrillator stocked with the consumables required in the event of an emergency. We will provide consumables and will keep a stock.

It is the responsibility of the Primary Guardian to keep the defibrillator information up to date and accurate on 'The Circuit'. Status checks are very straightforward and communication with the circuit is by email. If a Primary Guardians did not respond, the Supporting Guardian would be contacted, i.e. the Council.

The role of Guardian is not onerous, speaking from experience. In this instance, the Council is also offering a supporting role, which will act as a failsafe. All guardians have a useful document detailing all the information they need, as well as links to websites with further information. To support further, where needed, we will demonstrate the checks and how to use 'The Circuit'.

The Kit

[Wel Medical](#) is the chosen supplier based on cost, durability of the equipment, ease of use and accessibility due to the brightly coloured case and large handle. They have proven themselves to be a formidable partner honouring the prices quoted in April 2022, despite increases.



C-63480 iPad SP1 Semi Auto AED
(Defibrillator) Package ORANGE Carry
Case **£795**



91001 DefibSafe 2 External Cabinet,
Locked **£440**

Installation

The Council has a preferred local electrical contractor who will work directly with us to install the cabinets as they require power to support a very low voltage head pad/light.

At the time of writing we do not have a lead time on delivery but will work to have them in place with urgency.

Awareness

We would like to push the publicity for this life-saving equipment in Ashington as far as possible. Initially a press release following the meeting on Valentines Day, and then a photocall and press release for each site with County Cllrs and those who have took on the Guardian role. I have contacted North East Ambulance Service and if we can get a representative that would have even greater impact.

Many of the locations have a wider reach from a publicity perspective which may positively encourage more defibrillators in towns and villages.

When defibrillators are installed, the public often react by asking about training. It is important to reiterate that training is not needed to use a defibrillator. The messaging has to be clear on this point. The equipment tells you what to do and will not administer a shock if it is not needed.

Next Steps

The Council is asked to agree to proceed with the order and works associated with installation and registration of twelve defibrillators, and to delegate to the Clerk spending for this purpose.

The Council has received or is due to receive, Members Local Improvement Scheme Funding (MLIS) of £14,350.