

## Defibrillation

The parish council has been discussing the merits of obtaining a defibrillator and I was put forward as lead as I have a nursing background, and therefore am familiar with the subject and the equipment.

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest, i.e. the heart has stopped beating.

This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and is an essential life-saving step in the chain of survival. The parish council is considering installing public defibrillators that could be used by a parishioner if needed.

To assist with this decision we need to find out the level of interest in both acquiring and using a public defibrillator.

If you the parishioners feel that this is a good idea we are prepared to take this forward. To this end I need some answers to some questions, as we can't do this on our own.

1. Do you feel that it would be a good idea to make this investment?
2. Do you feel that it would be a good idea to invest in 2 machines, one for Dunkerton and one for Tunley, bearing in mind that a successful outcome is dependent on speedy intervention
3. Where do you think the defibrillators should be sited for easy access?
4. Would you consider receiving basic life support training, possibly with an annual update, as a defibrillator is even more effective when used in conjunction with basic lifesaving skills?

This last question is, I think, almost the most important one, as the more people who participate in the training the better. In an ideal world it would be great if everyone did it, as basic life support is a skill that can be required anytime, anywhere, and it isn't difficult. It will only require about an hour or two of your time once a year at most. Age is no barrier, anyone can do it, no medical skills or experience is necessary.

Please could you contact me via email or telephone with your views?

Thank you for your cooperation.

Cllr. Diana Prescott D&TPC.

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