

Community Services Committee

Title:	Defibrillators
Date:	10 September 2024
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a request from the Staying Alive Group that Thame Town Council becomes the main point of contact to oversee the management and compliance of eight community defibrillators in Thame.

Background

2. Staying Alive Thame were just five people who live in Thame who decided to start a group to raise money for community defibrillators. This group had its first fund raising event in November 2013. Their aim was: To save lives by fundraising to purchase defibrillators and secure cabinets which can be placed in Thame for use by the local community.
3. The group asked people at each building where a unit is placed to check it weekly. With a contract in place with a supplier to provide batteries (4–5-year life span) and pads (as required) free of charge, it is expected that this contract would transfer over to the Town Council or to individual defibrillator locations' guardians. The group have retained funds to cover any additional operational requirements. However, these funds have been tied up due to a change in banking requirements and the Bank no longer situated in Thame, which is causing some administrative obstructions that are being investigated by the treasurer.
4. Thame Town Council awarded a grant of £2,000 in 2014-15.
5. Staying Alive were successful in this venture raising enough money to fit eight defibrillators located at the following locations:
 - a. Thame Barns Centre
 - b. Scout HQ
 - c. Brothers Salon
 - d. Racquets Gym
 - e. The Falcon Pub
 - f. *Masonic Lodge
 - g. *Sprinz and Nash Vets
 - h. *Barley Hill School - Denbigh Road
6. The Group have agreements with the building owners where the defibrillators are located, with a guardian responsible for undertaking the required weekly checks which includes checking the electricity connection to the cabinet.

7. To date the administrator is checking that current contact details for each location are correct and each defibrillator is being checked as required. There could be *locations that may need volunteers to undertake weekly operational tasks and a full annual inspection to check cabinet handles, equipment and that the pads and batteries are in date.
8. The Staying Alive Group are no longer operational, leaving the administration role to one member who is looking for support from Thame Town Council to take on the management and overall responsibility.

Proposal

9. That Thame Town Council consider taking on the responsibility of managing and monitoring the eight defibrillators, so they do not go out of commission.
10. There is an outstanding concern that the Barley Hill Defibrillator is not connected to an electricity supply, with the Administrator trying to find this out and who would pay for any investigation to repair the connection.
11. That the Administrator confirms which locations are adopted to the organisation/business/person monitoring them with support from Thame Town Council as required.

Risk Assessment

12. A generic risk assessment has been provided that includes a weekly checking sheet. Staff time to pick up ordering supplies, responding to incidents, or checking defibrillators if no volunteers are found. Possible financial requirements for the Barley Hill Defibrillator electrical connections.

Legal Powers:

- 1936 Public Health Act (S234) Power to provide life preservers.
- Localism Act 2011, ss. 1-8

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To **consider** the request from Staying Alive for Thame Town Council to become responsible for the Staying Alive Defibrillators Administration and Management.*