

Please Give Your Views About a Defibrillator and Village Emergency Telephone System By Completing The Questions Overleaf

Why have a defibrillator in East Haven?

Residents have proposed that East Haven has its own community defibrillator and would like to know what you think. Defibrillators are used when somebody has a sudden cardiac arrest and cardiac massage does not restart the heart. Survival rates after sudden cardiac arrest with CPR alone stand at around 5%. By using a defibrillator, the survival rate increases to 50%. Public access, community defibrillators are designed to be used by both trained and untrained people and ideally should be used within 5 minutes of the heart stopping.

- The Scottish Ambulance service try to respond to up to 75% of cardiac arrests within 8 minutes. However, the more rural the area the less likely they are to achieve this target. In East Haven, paramedics experience particular problems locating houses and accessing properties on the south side of the railway.
- 22% of East Haven households are single occupancy
- 71% of East Haven residents are aged 50 years or over placing them in a higher risk category of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Hundreds of people pass through East Haven on National Cycle Route 1 every year.
- At least three residents have died over the past 20 years in circumstances which might have been different had a defibrillator been available.

Where would we obtain a defibrillator and how much would it cost?

The Scottish Ambulance service are supporting a charity called the Community Heartbeat Trust who have developed service packages to enable communities such as ours to have their own defibrillator without the hassle of liability, damage and theft insurance etc. The community raises the money for the defibrillator but technically, it remains the property of the charity as they provide the insurances etc. At the end of the term the community can purchase their defibrillator for £1 and assume all the liabilities or enter into another managed solution agreement. A defibrillator and managed solution package for East Haven will cost £4,300 and we would have to raise this money through fundraising and grant applications. However, there will be no other costs for 10 years.

Where would we keep a defibrillator?

Many communities adopt their phone boxes to accommodate defibrillators as they are equipped with an electricity supply which is necessary to keep the defibrillator fully charged. BT have committed to paying the electricity costs (up to £30 per annum) for 7 years. In reality, it is likely that they will fund the electricity costs indefinitely. As most people use mobiles these days, BT plan to decommission over 20,000 phone boxes in 2017. A review of the East Haven phone box has identified that no calls were made at all during the last twelve months. However, purchasing a managed solution package from the Community Heart Beat Trust would enable East Haven to retain a phone for 999 emergency use only.

Would we receive any training or support to use it?

Yes, The Community Heartbeat Trust would provide a training session for everybody in the village. However, you don't need to have received any training to use the defibrillator as it really is designed for the complete novice. If you did have cause to use the defibrillator, the Community Heartbeat Trust will provide a post incident counselling service if required.

Would the community have any responsibilities in the management of the defibrillator?

Yes. The community has to undertake a monthly check of the equipment and report back via a web-site to say that the equipment is in satisfactory condition. The Scottish Ambulance Service keep a data-base of all Community defibrillators but they have strict criteria for ensuring that they are kept in good working order, which is why they support the managed solution from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

1. Do you support the idea of a defibrillator for the village ? Yes No

If No please specify why?

2. Would you be willing to take part in a rota for checking the equipment and confirming the check on the Community Heartbeat web-site?

Name Yes No

Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS).

This is an additional service which would provide the village with a single telephone number to access help for an East Haven resident in an emergency. The idea is that you dial 999 and then this additional number. You don't have to speak to anybody but the number will automatically put out a telephone alert to 10 designated people (good samaritans) in the village simultaneously. The first person who is in a position to respond automatically stops the other phones ringing as soon as they accept the call.

We would need to have ten village responders registered at any one time to answer and attend but only if they are able. For example, if a person was on holiday or at home alone with a child and therefore not able to attend, they would not be able to answer the call.

Why would this be a helpful service?

We already have a system in place on the seaward side of the village but it involves phoning a list of numbers until someone answers who can help and this might not be possible in an emergency

22% of East Haven residents live alone but even in a two person household, help may be needed.

Some people in East Haven have partners who work away from home

The number could be used to ask somebody to fetch the defibrillator if required but also for any other kind of emergency which requires immediate help.

How much is this service?

The service is free in the first year and costs £100 per annum thereafter.

Can you think of a situation where it would be useful for you to use the Village Emergency number? Yes No

Would you consider being a 'Good Samaritan' on the system? Yes No

Name

Please either return this sheet to 4 Tankerville, 5 Torrie Park, 11 long Row, or Rockville. Alternatively, e-mail your response to the questions by 2 January 2017 to: easthaventogether@gmail.com