

Dear Clerk and Councillors,

Executive Summary

The St Agnes Parishwide Defibrillator Network is now recognised as a premier lifesaving infrastructure, ranked in the **Top 2%** for defibrillator coverage per 10,000 population in England and Wales (BHF, 2025). To ensure this vital network remains operational for future generations, we are formally requesting that the Parish Council considers a recurring annual support fund of **£1,500**.

Statutory Framework and Local Impact

While the provision of lifesaving equipment is not a mandatory statutory requirement, the Parish Council possesses the clear legal authority to support such initiatives:

- [Public Health Act 1936 \(Section 234\)](#): Empowers local authorities to provide life-saving appliances at their discretion.
- [Local Government Act 1972 \(Section 137\)](#): Provides the "Free Resource" power to fund equipment that brings a direct, tangible benefit to the community.

Since the Council devolved its defibrillators along with donations and funds held in trust (£1,580) to our network in 2023, we have successfully expanded and maintained this critical resource. Your previous support of £600 in 2025 toward consumables was instrumental, and we are extremely grateful for that support. From a start point of just 6 registered defibrillators, there are now over 50, with more in the planning stages. We would now desire to transition from ad-hoc grants to a sustainable financial model moving forwards, if Councillors believe the network provides a benefit to the whole community and visitors.

The Proposal: A Sustainable Future

To maintain the current high standard of the network, we request an **annual core running cost support of £1,500**. This funding would be specifically allocated to core overheads, including, but not restricted to:

- Mandatory insurance cover.
- Regulatory filing fees.
- Professional accountancy costs.
- Website costings to maintain public information and awareness.
- Other variable costs relating to the requirements placed upon us.

Fiscal Impact: Based on the [ONS](#) 2021 census data of [2,896](#) households, this request equates to approximately **52p per household, per annum**. Given the population and households growth and new developments in the St Agnes Ward since 2021, the actual cost per household is likely even lower.

Community Value & Collaboration

The network is more than just hardware; it is a community-driven safety net. Our recent achievements include:

- **Proactive Expansion:** Secured approval for Public Access Defibrillators in all new housing developments within the Parish, with other projects for new installations active.
- **Education:** Delivering free awareness and training sessions to anyone.
- **National Recognition:** Establishing St Agnes as a leader in rural emergency health safety.
- **TWO LIVES SAVED:** Since the inception of this network, two lives have been saved and directly related to Public Access Defibrillators which were previously not available.
- **Supporting all:** We not only provide and maintain defibrillators under our organisation, but we support the maintenance and consumables for ALL of the Public Access Defibrillators

throughout the whole Parish, that means that private owners, organisations and business can ensure their defibrillator is working and available 24/7 365.

Public support for this network is immense. Residents frequently inquire about the Council's long-term involvement, and a formal partnership would represent a significant "Good News" story for the Parish, demonstrating a proactive commitment between the Parish Council and the St Agnes Parishwide Defibrillator Network to the motto: *Saving Lives in the Community*.

What's more, there are no liabilities, responsibilities or addition workload required by the Parish Council as we undertake everything and the Council wards gain a long term public assets by supporting the sustainability and growth.

Conclusion

Should the Council decide to support the core annual funding for this network it will enable all of the fundriasing to be focused on supporting the funding of consumables and replace items that go out of service or due to faults or being out of warranty.

We invite the Council to view this not merely as a cost, but as a low-level investment in a high-impact service. By securing the core administrative costs, the Council enables our volunteers to focus on the technical and logistical maintenance and support community education that will continue to make our Parish one of the safest in the country.

We look forward to discussing this proposal further at your next meeting.

Mr Paul Kimberley BSc Dip PUC MCPara
Director

St Agnes Parishwide Defibrillator Network CIC
(Company number **16077965**)

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"Saving Lives in the Community!"