

Risk Assessment and Rational for choosing unlocked Defibrillator Cabinets for Ringland Village Parish Council

Please ref to AED Critical Incident report December 2022 issued on 03/01/23 for further background information.

1. We have had an unlocked cabinet sited in the centre of the village for over 3 years now with no reported incidents of theft or vandalism.
2. Crime rates in Norfolk are statistically lower than the national average and are mainly highest in populated areas i.e., Norwich, Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth etc.
Rural crime is extremely low with Broadland having the lowest incidence of reported crime in Norfolk. To the year ending September 2022, the recorded burglary/ theft rate was only 1 incident per 1000 people. (Source ONS)
3. The Parish Council have ascertained that our current insurance policy covers theft or vandalism of a defibrillator from an unlocked cabinet in the unlikely event it should occur.
4. The latest guidelines from the Resuscitation Council (UK) and British Heart Foundation state:

‘The most important consideration is that those who might need to use an AED know where it is kept and how to access it quickly. No barrier should be put in the way of anyone collecting it when it is needed; it should not be locked away and inaccessible.’

It is my opinion that any delay in accessing and obtaining the defibrillator in a cardiac arrest is crucial and seconds count with regards to survival. Cabinet passcodes or combination locks could obviously impact this and therefore should be avoided.

Dr Michael Cherry 17.04.2023