

**Graham Stuart MP**  
Member of Parliament  
Working Hard for Beverley & Holderness

## How to get a Community Access Defibrillator in your village

Member of Parliament for Beverley and Holderness, Graham Stuart is keen to see a Defibrillator in every village in the constituency. This is a lifesaving machine that can shock a heart into a normal cardiac rhythm if somebody suffers a cardiac arrest. In order to be effective the machine has to be with the patient within 4 minutes. Graham took a bicycle ride around the area to inspire communities to get involved and get their own Defibrillator. Below is some guidance on how to get a defibrillation machine for your village.

Ask the Parish Council to include a Defibrillator as an item on their next agenda. Would the Parish Council consider acting as the accountable body for the Defibrillator funding and purchase? Invite the Community Access Defibrillator Officer from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to the meeting to tell the Councillors more about the project. The Parish Council is ideally placed to be the accountable body as they are VAT exempted which is useful if any work or equipment has VAT applied.

Identify a suitable location for the machine to be installed. Remember that in order to gain maximum effect the machine needs to be with the patient in under four minutes so the closer it's kept to the population centre the more chance it has of saving a life, there may be a building such as a village hall, GP's surgery or a pub. Once identified, make an approach to the owner to see if they would be willing to accommodate the machine – it does require a box to be attached to the external wall of the building so they need to be happy with that, and perhaps suggest where on the building it could be situated.

Once an accountable body is found then you can begin with the fund raising; the machines and boxes cost in the region of £2,000 depending on which machine you choose. The Yorkshire Ambulance Service may be able to support you (they have deals with suppliers), so might the British Heart Foundation. Businesses may be approached to give a contribution or you could hold a coffee morning / quiz night (pubs may offer to run one for you). Sporting facilities might offer to do charity matches etc. It normally just needs somebody to motivate and coordinate the effort. Graham has been in contact with the 'Smile Foundation' and the inspirational Beverley-based charity, NURSE, both of which welcome hearing from communities who need assistance raising money for defibrillators.

Get Trained & Promote – Anybody can use a Defibrillator without the need for training but if somebody needs to use one they will have more confidence if they have already done a two hour heartstart course. The courses are run by the British Heart Foundation and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. It is also useful to have an official launch event for the machine so that everybody in the village knows where it is.

*Cardiac arrest is not something that only happens to older people. Young adults and children can also suffer an unexpected cardiac arrest*

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
Tel: 0207 219 4340

Email: [graham@grahamstuart.com](mailto:graham@grahamstuart.com) Website: [www.grahamstuart.com](http://www.grahamstuart.com)

---