

## Defibrillator for Luddington

As agreed at the March 2026 meeting I have researched options for a new defibrillator and cabinet to be installed at Luddington.

There are many options with prices ranging from £650 or so up to £1,650. Some are sold by 'warehouse' type suppliers, and others by St John's Ambulance and similar organisations.

Cabinets are either internal (not suitable for us) or external. External ones are either locked or unlocked. The two that we have already are unlocked – this gives easier access to members of the public in need without having to be given a code by the emergency services (which may be forgotten in periods of stress). I would propose a cabinet very similar to the one in Thurning. A notable advance in the technology since last we purchased one, is that there is now no requirement to have an electrical feed to keep the contents suitably dry and at operating temperature. Prices for such a cabinet start at around £500.

The defibrillators themselves vary in 'intelligence'. Some are completely automatic (effectively performing an ECG and then delivering a shock when needed). Others do the ECG assessment and then advise that a shock is required – the operator then presses a button to deliver the shock. Some commentary suggests that inexperienced users prefer the latter as they feel more in control – the two we have work on this basis.

Another factor is life of batteries and pads – our current machines require replacement every other year. Some current models work on this timescale, but others are on longer replacement cycles up to five years.

Having considered the various options, I am suggesting:

- a) We go with St John's Ambulance as a supplier as any profits go to support their charitable activities;
- b) We go for an unlocked external cabinet similar to that in Thurning;
- c) We choose their Heart One machine as per the attached product sheet – battery and pad life is five years, warranty is eight years.

The cost of this 'bundle' is £1,286 plus VAT which is within the earmarked funds of £1,500.

An alternative is to choose the Heart Two machine for an additional £200. The product sheet for this is also attached.

R G Allinson  
Clerk  
May 2026