

Member questions submitted in advance of Council 21-11-12

Item 13 Questions to Members of the Cabinet

Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities

Dear Councillor Smith,

Could The Cabinet Member tell us if automated external defibrillators are available for use in our Leisure Centres?

If not, given the evidence that defibrillators have been proven to save lives, following a Cardiac Arrest the chance of survival decreases by 23% per minute. It is therefore very important medical treatment starts as soon as possible. Could The Cabinet Member look into providing automated external defibrillators in our centres? These can be purchased through charities such as the St John Ambulance Brigade as well as the training via their St.John Supplies arm.

Many Thanks

Cllr. Keith Martin
Kingsfold Ward

Strategic Planning and Housing

Dear Councillor Hughes,

Q1 The Maltings.

With the current plans to demolish The Maltings and remove 100 or more single occupancy units from Kingsfold and South Ribble at a time when it seems so evident they are needed, could The Cabinet Member and his team work with Places for People to ensure their replacement. Currently, there are many residents "stuck" in two bed units and face a cut in benefits via the "Bedroom Tax". Failure to provide single occupancy units at this time, or demolish those that already exist would remove options for those facing such cuts to their benefits except to move into more expensive private lettings, costing the tax payer more or move away from the Borough.

Q2 Defibrillators in Public Places

There is more and more evidence that having defibrillators available in public buildings has saved lives. Following a Cardiac Arrest the chance of survival decreases by 23% per minute. It is therefore very important medical treatment starts as soon as possible. The UK Resuscitation Council suggests an automated external defibrillator should be available wherever medical treatment is more than 5 minutes away. In practical terms this could mean the whole of South Ribble.

Could The Cabinet Member look into the feasibility of making the installation of a defibrillator and training for the use of part of planning conditions for all "new" public accessed buildings. Defibrillators cost less than £2000, in some instances, they could be donated. The British Heart Foundation has seen over 6000 placed in the community since they started donating them in 1996.

Many thanks.

Cllr. Keith Martin
Kingsfold Ward