

Subway mural

A rule-of-thumb guideline price for a given architectural feasibility study would be £2,000-£4,000 or 2%-4% of expected project costs.

Oliver Budd, who had carried out a full restoration of the mural in 2006, visited the subway in 2019 and estimated that it required at least 45m² of restoration work at an indicative cost of £2,000 per square metre (at 2019 prices).

As an alternative, he suggested that the Council consider placing protective Perspex panels over the mosaic. 6mm Perspex or acrylic protective panels would cost £50-£100 per square metre (depending on the level of anti-vandalism protection required) plus labour (at 2022 prices).

A further idea raised by Mr Budd was that of replacing the external mural panels with printed aluminium panels. These would cost around £100 per square metre plus labour (at 2022 prices).

In 2020, Blaenau Gwent Council confirmed to us that the subway is part of the highway structure. Any work that involved drilling holes into the subway or applying paint, cement, glue, resin or similar would require a structural impact survey.

Defibrillator costs**Maintenance**

The Council currently owns and maintains 13 automated external defibrillators. None of these will be due for replacement in 2023-24 but ten will require replacement batteries in January 2024. None of the defibrillator pads will fall due for replacement in 2023-24. None of the heated defibrillator cabinets are due for replacement until 2029 but the manufacturer's warranty for ten cabinets will expire in early 2024. It may be wise for the Council to invest in one replacement cabinet to act as a stand-by in case one of the existing cabinets malfunctions.

New

The Council's newly-adopted defibrillator policy envisages the installation of an average of two new defibrillators (plus heated cabinets) each year for the next four years.

Indicative costs (at 2022 prices)

Replacement batteries: £220 each

New defibrillators: £1100 each

Heated cabinets: £500 each

Installation costs: £100 per cabinet.

Budget implications

Allowing for inflation, the forecast defibrillator maintenance costs in 2023-24 would be £3,500. The forecast cost of buying and installing two new defibrillators would be £4,000.

Draft budget proposals 2023-24 (for discussion)

Town in Bloom	£18,000
Community Council participation in town centre events	£3,000
Grants to Ffrindiau Tyleri (Springfest, Aberfest, Halloween, Winterfest)	£2,500
Environmental projects	£10,000
Defibrillator purchase and installation	£4,000
Defibrillator maintenance	£3,500
Allotments	£650
Total	£41,650
Total 2022-23	£38,100