

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 31ST JANUARY 2007

CEMETERY BURIAL SPACE

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the availability of burial space in the Council's cemeteries and identify priorities for future capital investment.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for the maintenance and operation of 44 cemeteries and churchyards across East Ayrshire. Several of these facilities are closed and there are 23 sites in regular use, these sites are listed in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Each of the Council's cemeteries is different in terms of the demand for burials and the availability of land for expansion. In order to assist in the prioritisation of future investment in cemeteries, average demand and the number of lairs available are used to calculate a figure for the years of use remaining at each cemetery and Appendix A shows the rank order achieved. Based on the current figures there are two cemeteries with less than 10 years use remaining and these should be the priorities for investment in expansion. Appendix A also shows where additional lairs have been added in recent years and identifies whether land is already available or may need to be purchased for cemetery use in the future.
- 2.3 Members should also be aware that all pre-sales of lairs were stopped in September 2004 to ensure that the remaining lair space in all cemeteries is managed efficiently.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's current service standard is to provide local cemetery facilities and there is an expectation in most communities that this range of service will continue.
- 3.2 Based on the figures shown in Appendix A the priorities for cemetery extension are:
- 1) New Cumnock (land purchase required)
 - 2) Muirkirk (land available for extension)
 - 3) Sorn (land purchase required)
 - 4) Cumnock (land available for extension)
 - 5) Kilmaurs (land available for extension)

- 3.3 Where land purchase is required this may involve the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders to acquire suitable land, however negotiation with landowners is the preferred route. Once land has been purchased, or where land is already available funding is required to prepare suitable cemetery space and this can involve levelling the ground, providing roads and paths, constructing boundary walls / fences, providing car parking facilities and installing appropriate foundations for headstones. A capital programme allocation will be sought for 2007/08 to address the issues at New Cumnock and Muirkirk.
- 3.4 Where necessary requirement for future cemetery extensions have been identified as part of the Local Plan amendment process.
- 3.5 A dedicated Baby Section is currently being created at Cumnock Cemetery and this type of facility will then be available in Cumnock and Kilmarnock.
- 3.6 Tenders are currently being sought for works to create a Green Burial site adjacent to Galston Cemetery to address the growing interest in green burials across Scotland.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council continues to invest both capital and revenue funds in the provision and maintenance of cemeteries across East Ayrshire. The capital funding allocation for 2007/08 will be put forward as part of the Community Services Capital Programme proposals in due course.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. POLICY / COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Policy or Community Plan implications attached to this report.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The establishment of investment priorities based on the total years of lair space remaining at each cemetery is a basic but effective method of ensuring that each cemetery is able to meet local demand.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) approve the priorities for investment in cemetery development shown in 3.2 of the report
 - (ii) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to liaise with the Executive Director of Corporate Services to pursue the acquisition of land to meet the future needs of the Cemetery Service
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG

4th January 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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CEMETERY BURIAL SPACE
APPENDIX A

CEMETERY	CAPACITY (No. of Lairs)	LAIRS AVAILABLE 30/11/2006	LAIR SALES 2004	LAIR SALES 2005	TOTAL YEARS REMAINING BASED ON PREVIOUS 2 YEARS (Average)	Comments
NEW CUMNOCK	3376	54	7	10	6.35 Years	Land required
MUIRKIRK	2850	68	6	8	9.71 Years	Land available
SORN	226	35	6	1	10.00 Years	20 lairs added in 2006 - Land required
CUMNOCK	6323	216	17	25	10.29 Years	137 lairs added in 2005 - Land available
KILMAURS	1574	85	6	10	10.63 Years	Land available
DALRYMPLE	744	43	4	2	14.33 Years	25 lairs added in 2006 - Land required
DALMELLINGTON	1581	183	11	11	16.64 Years	150 lairs added in 2006 - Land available
AUCHINLECK	1919	261	15	10	20.88 Years	
GALSTON	3691	308	11	17	22.00 Years	280 lairs added in 2004
RICCARTON	6844	994	27	36	31.56 Years	Land available
DUNLOP	651	134	5	3	33.50 Years	
MAUCLINE	2492	230	4	8	38.33 Years	195 lairs added in 2005
KILMARNOCK	26200	2265	72	43	39.39 Years	
STAIR	528	71	0	3	47.33 Years	40 lairs added in 2006
DRONGAN	707	288	7	5	48.00 Years	
CATRINE	1962	302	4	8	50.33 Years	
DARVEL	1653	499	14	4	55.44 Years	
PATNA	1925	308	6	3	68.44 Years	300 lairs added in 2006
OCHILTREE	1346	370	3	5	92.50 Years	
STEWARTON	5236	1185	11	11	107.73 Years	
NEWMILNS	3555	894	7	8	119.20 Years	
FENWICK	1375	240	3	1	120.00 Years	
KILMARNOCK BABY SECTION*	643	626	1	3	313.00 Years	opened 2004

Less than 10 years available