

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2005**

### **LAIR AVAILABILITY REPORT**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the availability of lairs in Council cemeteries and to establish priorities for future developments.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for 23 cemeteries and 20 churchyards. A list of these churchyards and cemeteries is shown in Appendix 1. Information regarding records and closed cemeteries/churchyards is also shown in this Appendix.
- 2.2 There is variable demand for lair space at each cemetery and it is important that priorities are established to inform future investment decisions. Funding is required to support land purchase, planning and ground preparation works. Where possible the Council seeks to extend burial provision at existing cemeteries on land in Council ownership, however, it is becoming increasingly necessary to consider the purchase of adjacent land which can be a lengthy process.
- 2.3 The Council has recently provided additional lair space at Cumnock, Galston, and Mauchline Cemeteries and the 2005/06 capital programme provides funding to extend Patna Cemetery.
- 2.4 Members will recall that the Community Services Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2004 took a decision to stop the pre-sales of lairs and by doing so extended the operational life of existing lair space within our cemeteries.

#### **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The table below details the available lair space in each of the Council's operational cemeteries at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

CEMETERY	LAIRS REMAINING	AVERAGE ANNUAL USAGE	RENEWAL REQUIRED YEARS	NOTES
AUCHINLECK	285	16	17¾	
CATRINE	322	6	53½	
CUMNOCK	257	20	12¾	257 added 2005
DALMELLINGTON	51	13	3¾	Priority
DALRYMPLE	31	5	6	Priority
DARVEL	508	12	42¼	
DRONGAN	302	7	43	
DUNLOP	134	8	17¼	
FENWICK	241	3	80¼	
GALSTON	345	14	24½	280 lairs added 2005
KILMARNOCK	2346	70	33½	
KILMAURS	98	9	11	
MAUCHLINE	247	5	49¼	195 lairs added 2005
MUIRKIRK	81 + *8	7	12¾	8 lairs for summer use only
NEW CUMNOCK	79	7	11¼	Priority
NEWMILNS	909	9	101	
OCHILTREE	377	3	125½	
PATNA	12	7	1¾	Work planned for 2005/06
RICCARTON	1062	32	33	
SORN	13	6	2	Priority
STAIR	41	1	41	
STEWARTON	1204	12	100¼	

3.2 Capital monies have been identified for the purchase of land at Patna Cemetery which will add over 360 lairs.

3.3 The following sites have been identified as the highest priorities for future investment:-

1) **Dalmellington**

It is considered that the area adjacent to the 5<sup>th</sup> extension would be the most suited for an extension. It would appear from records that this area may be in the ownership of a local farmer. Negotiations will have to be opened with the land owner to ascertain if they are willing to sell an area of land to the Council for the purpose of a cemetery extension. An evaluation of the suitability of the land would also have to be undertaken by the Council's Property and Technical Services officers prior to any offer.

2) **Dalrymple**

The land surrounding this cemetery and churchyard is not in Council ownership. There is need to negotiate the purchase of suitable land. No land has been identified for an extension at this time. This will be done with officers from the Property and Technical Services' Sections once ownership has been established.

3) **New Cumnock**

It is considered that the area opposite to the existing cemetery would be best for an extension. The land belongs to a local farmer and negotiations will be required to ascertain if the landowner is willing to sell an area of land to the Council for the purpose of a cemetery extension. An evaluation of the suitability of the land will be undertaken by the Council's colleagues in the Property Section and Technical Services officers prior to any offer. This facility is included in the priority list as the timescale to conclude negotiations is likely to be significant.

4) **Sorn**

There is a steep wooded area surrounding this cemetery and churchyard and at this time it is not clear who owns the surrounding areas. Sorn had a relatively high number of 1<sup>st</sup> interments in the past year. A plan detailing a further 50 lairs within the existing boundary has been produced and this would require re-designating existing lawns and flower/shrub beds as lairs. There will also be a need to extend the existing paths and drainage systems. This would be the most cost effective solution, however, it would be possible to investigate the creation of new burial spaces away from the present burial grounds, but still within local boundaries.

## 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council have set aside a capital allocation of £85,000.00 for Patna Cemetery for the year 2005-2006. Further funding will be required in future years.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Under the Burial Grounds Scotland Act, the Council must provide cemeteries for the burial of the dead.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Establishing a priority list of cemetery development/extensions will assist the Council in meeting its statutory obligations.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 There is an ongoing need to monitor the requirement for new burial space in East Ayrshire and this report highlights the highest priorities for consideration and investment. The priority list will inform future investment decisions and will ensure that communities are aware that issues regarding burial space are being addressed by the Council.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee is recommended to:-
- (i) approve a priority list of cemetery development/extensions shown in 3.3 above;
  - (ii) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to liaise with the Director of Development and Property Services to negotiate purchase agreements with the relevant land owners as appropriate; and
  - (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**  
WS/JAG/KH  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2005

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Cemetery Plans for:- Sorn; New Cumnock; Dalmellington and Dalrymple
2. Ownership Searches for:- New Cumnock and Dalmellington

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services, on 01563 578179.

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**MAINTAINED CEMETERIES & CHURCHYARDS – SOUTH AREA**

<b>CEMETERIES</b>	<b>CHURCHYARDS</b>	<b>RECORDS START</b>
Auchinleck (New) Main Street Auchinleck	Auchinleck (Old) Church Hill Auchinleck	21/12/1874 TO 30/12/1918 21/02/1926 TO 10/09/1976 24/01/1944
Catrine Newton Street Catrine	Catrine Chapel Brae Catrine	11/10/1906
Cumnock (New) Glaisnock Road Cumnock		08/03/1899
Cumnock Barrhill Barrhill Road Cumnock (CLOSED)		
Dalmellington (New) Church Street Dalmellington		12/04/1890
Dalmellington (Old) Off High Main Street Dalmellington (CLOSED)		
Dalrymple (New) Church Street Dalrymple	Dalrymple Church Street Dalrymple	12/01/1876
Drongan Littlemill Road Drongan		08/04/1964
Mauchline Barskimming Road Mauchline	Mauchline Loudoun Street Mauchline (CLOSED)	06/02/1882
Muirkirk Glasgow Road Muirkirk	Muirkirk Church Road Muirkirk	07/10/1879
New Cumnock Afton Road New Cumnock	New Cumnock The Castle, Main Street New Cumnock (CLOSED)	14/08/1889
Ochiltree (New) Mauchline Road Ochiltree		10/01/1905
Ochiltree (Old) Mill Street Ochiltree (CLOSED)		
Patna Fullerton Place Patna		05/08/1873
Sorn Main Street Sorn	Sorn Main Street Sorn	20/08/1955
Stair (New) Churchyard Stair	Stair Churchyard Stair	28/10/1884

**MAINTAINED CEMETERIES & CHURCHYARDS – NORTH AREA**

<b>CEMETERIES</b>	<b>CHURCHYARDS</b>	<b>RECORDS START</b>
Darvel (New) Manse Brae Darvel		02/04/1892
Darvel (Old) Causeway Road Darvel		
Dunlop Main Road Dunlop	Dunlop Main Road Dunlop	08/07/1886
Fenwick Skernieland Road Fenwick	Fenwick Kirkton Road Fenwick (CLOSED)	14/03/1899
Galston Cemetery Road Galston	Galston Cross Street Galston	13/07/1876
	Loudoun Kirk Off Glasgow Road Galston (CLOSED)	
Kilmarnock Grassyards Road Kilmarnock	St Andrews Church St Andrews Street Kilmarnock (CLOSED)	09/09/1875
Kilmaurs Kirkton Road Kilmaurs	Kilmaurs Kirkton Road Kilmaurs	Approx. 1876
Newmilns Dalwhatswood Road Newmilns	Newmilns Loudoun Road Newmilns (CLOSED)	22/02/1887
Riccarton Hurlford Road Kilmarnock	Riccarton Old Street Kilmarnock (CLOSED)	25/10/1876
Stewarton Dalry Road Stewarton	Stewarton St Columbas Lainshaw Street Stewarton (CLOSED)	10/12/1907

	<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>
Operational Cemeteries	10	13
Closed Cemeteries	0	3
Operational Churchyards	2	6
Closed Churchyards	7	2
	19	24