

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4 APRIL 2001

AVAILABILITY OF LAIRS IN EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CEMETERIES

Report by the Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is responsible for twenty-two Cemeteries each with different demands on lair space. To assist the planning of future lair space and allow time for necessary land purchase and groundworks to prepare land for use as a burial ground, the pre-sale of lairs is suspended where the cemetery requires extension within four years.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 South Area -as of 22 February 2001

CEMETERY	LAIRS REMAINING	AVERAGE ANNUAL USAGE	RENEWAL REQUIRED YEARS
AUCHINLECK	368	22	16 ½
CATRINE	371	14	26 ½
CUMNOCK *	118	27	4
DALMELLINGTON	116	16	7
DALRYMPLE	54	4	13 ½
DRONGAN	330	14	23 ½
MAUCLINE*	74	18	4
MUIRKIRK	126 + 8**	7	18
NEW CUMNOCK *	135	11	12
OCHILTREE	397	2	198
PATNA *	39	10	4
SORN *	25	2	12
STAIR *	42	2	21

NOTE: *Pre-selling of lairs stopped

** Wet ground - Lairs only to be used in summer

3.2 North Area - as of 22 February 2001

CEMETERY	LAIRS REMAINING	AVERAGE ANNUAL USAGE	RENEWAL REQUIRED YEARS
DARVEL	560	9	62
DUNLOP	165	6	27 ½
FENWICK	267	4	66 ½
GALSTON	121	27	4 ½
KILMARNOCK	2500	72	37
KILMAURS	142	10	14
NEWMILNS	942	9	104 ½
RICCARTON	1205	38	31
STEWARTON	1262	17	74

3.3 The Capital Programme for 2001/02 includes £30,000 for the purchase of land to expand Patna Cemetery and the development of a small car park at Drongan Cemetery. Initial discussions have taken place with officers in Property Services to progress the Patna extension.

3.4 For the financial year 2002/03 onwards funds will be required to prepare new lair space at Patna and extend the Cemeteries at Cumnock, Mauchline and Galston. The implications of these requirements and estimated costs are currently being investigated.

3.5 Beyond the initial priorities Dalmellington Cemetery is the most likely to require expansion in the medium term.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The capital sum of £30,000 will be spent at Patna and Drongan in 2001/02. Future funding requirements are currently being investigated and will be submitted in due course during the annual budget planning process.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 There is a requirement to regularly review the availability of lair space at the Council's cemeteries and develop prioritised plans for expansion and development.
- 7.2 Examination of the current situation shows that the cemeteries at Patna, Cumnock, Mauchline and Galston should be the top priorities for expansion and development in the next few years with Dalmellington in the following tranche. Future capital programme allocations should be based on these priorities if the levels of demand remains constraint.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/SAM

8th March 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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AGENDA