

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 5TH FEBRUARY 2004

CEMETERY LAIR AVAILABILITY

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the current position regarding the availability of lairs in the Council's cemeteries.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee considered a report on lair availability on the 4th April 2001. This report considered future plans for the extensions required to meet the demands of each individual burial ground. Capital programme funds have since been utilised to initiate a programme of extensions at Cumnock, Galston, Patna and Mauchline, along with a car park for Drongan cemetery.
- 2.2 Work has been carried out at Cumnock Cemetery and an additional 125 lairs have been created. There has also been space prepared to allow for further extensions to this cemetery which should allow another 1125 lairs approximately.
- 2.3 Work has also been instructed for Galston Cemetery where a further 314 lairs will be created initially and space prepared for further extension to the cemetery to accommodate 106 lairs.
- 2.4 Plans have been drawn up for Patna Cemetery and initial agreement has been made with the land owner for the purchase of the required land. It is hoped that the legal transfer of the land will be completed in the near future and that work can commence this year. An additional 376 lairs are proposed along with car parking space for 20 cars.
- 2.5 A suitable site for Mauchline Cemetery has been identified. There are however problems in securing this land from the land owner and discussions are ongoing.
- 2.6 Land at Drongan has been gifted to the council for use as a car park. Work is expected to start in the near future.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The remaining lair space and average annual use at each of the Council's cemeteries is shown in the following tables.

SOUTH AREA

CEMETERY	LAIRS REMAINING	AVERAGE ANNUAL USAGE	RENEWAL REQUIRED YEARS
AUCHINLECK	305	20	15½
CATRINE	330	12½	26
CUMNOCK Additional land available at this cemetery.	°163	28	5½
DALMELLINGTON	°69	15	4½
DALRYMPLE	°36	5½	6½
DRONGAN	310	7	44
MAUCLINE Land purchase under negotiation.	°58	9	6
MUIRKIRK Additional land available at this cemetery.	90 + *8	12½	7
NEW CUMNOCK	°90	13½	6½
OCHILTREE	380	5½	69
PATNA Land purchase underway	°21	7½	3
SORN	°22	1½	14½
STAIR	°42	1½	28

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

° Pre-selling of lairs stopped

NORTH AREA

CEMETERY	LAIRS REMAINING	AVERAGE ANNUAL USAGE	RENEWAL REQUIRED YEARS
DARVEL	522	9	58
DUNLOP	146	6	24
FENWICK	244	7	35
GALSTON Work instructed at this cemetery. Additional land available.	80	12	7
KILMARNOCK	2444	71½	34
KILMAURS	113	8½	13
NEWMILNS	920	6½	142
RICCARTON	1099	35	31
STEWARTON	1222	13	94

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The capital programme for the year 2003/04 includes £75,000.00 for works to extend and prepare cemetery facilities. This will be fully expended on the works described in this report.
- 4.2 Future capital funding should be used to ensure that the programme of extensions, repair and maintenance is sufficient to meet the requirements of the service and to allow the authority to meet the statutory obligations.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to dispose of the dead.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 There is a need to regularly review the availability of lairs in the Council's cemeteries and to develop and prioritise plans for expansion, repairs and maintenance.

Examination of the current figures of lair availability shows that consideration in the next tranche of extensions should be given to the following cemeteries:-

- a) Dalmellington (Land purchase)
- b) Dalrymple (Land purchase)
- c) New Cumnock (Land purchase)
- d) Muirkirk (Land preparation)

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) notes the progress made in the current projects to secure and prepare burial space;
- ii) remits to the Director of Community Services to initiate investigations into the costs of the work required at the four sites shown in 6.1 above, and to make appropriate submissions for capital programme funding in future years.
- iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/JAG/BMcC/RR
13th January 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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