

East Ayrshire Council in Partnership with East Ayrshire Leisure

Green Infrastructure and Green Network Strategy: Volume 3

Cemetery Strategy

April 2015

DRAFT



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I. Introduction

The Cemetery Strategy makes up Volume 3 of the East Ayrshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. The aims of the Cemetery Strategy are to provide, as far as is possible, a clear vision for the future development of cemetery services across East Ayrshire for the next 10 years. The Cemetery Strategy forms part of the East Ayrshire's overall Green Infrastructure Strategy and will reflect the value of these public spaces in their own right as well as their provision of a specific service (burial ground) and the likely changing patterns and trends.

The Cemetery Strategy will consider the legislative requirements specific to cemeteries. All other relevant policies, legislation and programmes have been considered in Volume 1 of the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

The key outputs for the Cemetery Strategy are to provide:

- A detailed assessment of current service standards and cemetery/lair availability and associated service quality issues.
- A prioritised action plan for the future development of Cemetery Services across East Ayrshire for the next 10 years, taking into account usage trends and changing community expectations.

The Cemetery Strategy builds on the main methodology for the Green Infrastructure Strategy which provides an audit of the accessibility, quantity, quality of all open spaces. Detail of this is included in Volume 2 of the strategy. Cemeteries are an integral part of the settlement reviews within the overall Green Infrastructure Strategy

There are five parts to the Cemetery Strategy methodology as follows:

- A description of Current Service Provision;
- A Review of Relevant Legislation and Policy
- An Assessment of Current Trends
- Quality Assessment of Cemeteries and Crematoria within East Ayrshire.
- A vision for Future Provision of Cemeteries

2. Description of Current Service Provision

There are 45 public cemeteries and churchyards within East Ayrshire which are maintained by East Ayrshire council and are included in the Cemetery Strategy. All of these public cemeteries and churchyards have been audited and are accompanied by a survey sheet as part of the wider Green Infrastructure Strategy.

TOWN	CEMETERIES	CHURCHYARDS
Auchinleck	Auchinleck Cemetery Main Street Auchinleck	Auchinleck Churchyard Church Hill Auchinleck
Catrine	Catrine Cemetery Newton Street Catrine	Catrine churchyard (Closed) Chapel BRAE Catrine
Cumnock	Cumnock Cemetery Glaisnock Road Cumnock	
	Barrhill Cemetery (Closed) Barrhill Road Cumnock	
Dalmellington	Dalmellington Cemetery Church Hill Dalmellington	
	Dalmellington Old Cemetery (Closed) Off Main High Main Street Dalmellington	
Dalrymple	Dalrymple Cemetery Church Street Dalrymple	Dalrymple Churchyard Church Street Dalrymple
Drongan	Drongan Cemetery	

	Littlemill Road Drongan	
Mauchline	Mauchline Cemetery Barskimming Road Mauchline	Mauchline Churchyard (Closed) Loudoun Street Mauchline
Muirkirk	Muirkirk Cemetery Glasgow road Muirkirk	Muirkirk Churchyard Church Road Muirkirk
New Cumnock	New Cumnock Cemetery Afton Road New Cumnock	New Cumnock Churchyard The Castle Main Street New Cumnock
Ochiltree	Ochiltree New Cemetery Mauchline Road Ochiltree	
	Ochiltree Old Cemetery (Closed) Mill Street Ochiltree	
Patna	Patna Cemetery Fullerton Street Patna	Patna Churchyard (Closed) Main Street Patna
Sorn	Sorn Cemetery Main Street Sorn	Sorn Churchyard Main Street Sorn
Stair	Stair Cemetery Churchyard Stair	Stair Churchyard Churchyard Stair
Darvel	Darvel New Cemetery Manse Brae Darvel	
	Darvel Old Cemetery	

	Causeway Road Darvel	
Dunlop	Dunlop Cemetery Main Road Dunlop	Dunlop Churchyard Main Road Dunlop
Fenwick	Fenwick Cemetery Skernieland Fenwick	Fenwick Churchyard (Closed) Kirkton Road Fenwick
Galston	Galston Cemetery Cemetery Galston	Galston Churchyard Cross Street Galston
		Loudoun Kirk (Closed) Off Glasgow Road Galston
Kilmarnock	Kilmarnock Cemetery Grassyard Road Kilmarnock	Laigh Kirk (Closed) John Dickie Street Kilmarnock
		St Andrews Churchyard (Closed) St Andrews Street Kilmarnock
	Riccarton Cemetery Hurlford Road Kilmarnock	Riccarton Churchyard (Closed) Old Street Kilmarnock
Kilmaurs	Kilmaurs Cemetery Kirkton Road Kilmaurs	Kilmaurs Churchyard Kirkton Road Kilmaurs
Newmilns	Newmilns Cemetery Dalwhatswood Road Newmilns	Newmilns Churchyard (Closed) Loudoun Road Newmilns
Stewarton	Stewarton Cemetery Dalry Road	St Columbus Churchyard (Closed) Lainshaw Street

	Stewarton	Stewarton
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	Cemeteries	Churchyards
Operational	23	9
Closed	3	10

In addition to this the service undertakes an annual quality assessment undertaken by the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management. This includes a number of essential criteria that the service must meet in relation to service and standards to achieve Gold, Silver or Bronze status. Service standards are also audited externally via the ISO 9000 Audit Management process and certification is achieved via this process. There is an internal and external process for auditing quality and the service maintain experienced and trained personnel to undertake audits. The criteria within the audits described cover all aspects of the service from customer service, financial controls, training etc. as well as criteria more relevant to service delivery such as Grounds Maintenance and Health and Safety. These criteria have been reviewed and considered as part of the development of the Cemetery Strategy quality indicators, as far as they relate to quality of Green Infrastructure.

- **Accessibility**
Cemeteries within East Ayrshire are open to public access 24 hours per day.
- **Provision for Baby Burials**
Two specific facilities for babies are provided in Kilmarnock and Cumnock. However all cemeteries accommodate the interment of babies/children.
- **Green Burial**
The council operate and provide a green burial site within Galston Cemetery; this includes a woodland and meadowland site.

- **Specific Faith Requirements**

The council have recently set aside an area for our Muslim community within Kilmarnock cemetery after consultation with a local Muslim group. We are also working closely at this time with colleagues in North and South Ayrshire to survey other religious and non-religious groups to ascertain their needs and views on the bereavement provisions provided across Ayrshire as a whole.

- **Management Rules**

Burials are normally arranged by a contacting a Funeral Director. East Ayrshire Council retains a list of funeral directors. Burials can also be arranged independently by contacting the Bereavement Services Office. A full copy of the management rules is available on request.

- **Availability**

The Following table outlines the demand for burial plots and the Cemetery Capacity

CEMETERY	CAPACITY (No. of Lairs)	LAIRS AVAILABLE as of 30/11/14	LAIR SALES	LAIR SALES 2012		LAIR SALES 2013		LAIR SALES 2014		Total Sales for previous 5 years		TOTAL YEARS REMAINING BASED ON PREVIOUS 2 YEARS (12/13 Average) Full Body Interments only
				Full	Crem	Full	Crem	Full	Crem	Full	Crem	
DALRYMPLE	744	28	7	5	0	3	0	7	0	16	1	7.00 Years
AUCHINLECK	1919	121	17	13	0	20	1	13	2	81	1	7.33 Years
DALMELLINGTON	1581	97	17	11	1	9	0	11	0	49	3	9.70 Years
SORN	226	20	0	1	0	3	0	2	1	7	1	10.00 Years
CUMNOCK	6323	457	20	22	1	31	3	8	0	109	9	17.25 Years
MAUCHLINE	2492	160	12	9	0	6	0	4	0	43	1	21.33 Years
GALSTON	3691	216	19	10	0	9	2	4	1	60	4	22.74 Years
DUNLOP	651	107	4	7	1	2	2	4	1	13	3	23.78 Years
RICCARTON	6844	787	34	25	0	29	0	18	3	125	7	29.15 Years
DRONGAN	707	215	3	9	0	5	1	8	1	40	3	30.71 Years
KILMARNOCK MUSLIM	38	36	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	6	2	36.00 Years
PATNA	1925	267	4	6	0	7	0	4	0	18	1	41.08 Years

CATRINE	1962	257	20	7	0	5	0	5	0	27	0	42.83 Years
NEW CUMNOCK	3951	519	14	11	0	10	0	16	0	59	0	49.43 Years
KILMARNOCK	26200	1879	73	30	0	38	4	35	4	192	19	55.26 Years
MUIRKIRK	3230	393	4	9	0	2	0	4	0	28	2	71.45 Years
DARVEL	1653	461	7	7	1	4	0	4	1	20	1	83.82 Years
KILMAURS	1615	542	9	5	2	6	2	3	0	30	6	98.55 Years
FENWICK	1375	218	7	1	0	3	1	4	0	8	4	109.00 Years
KILMARNOCK BABY SECTION	643	566		2	0	6	0	7	0	30	0	141.50 Years
STEWARTON	5236	1117	15	10	0	5	5	5	3	36	9	148.93 Years
OCHILTREE	1346	352	3	2	0	2	0	2	0	9	3	176.00 Years
NEWMILNS	3555	852	8	4	0	5	1	4	0	24	2	189.33 Years
CUMNOCK BABY SECTION	452	430		2	0	1	0	3	0	15	0	286.67 Years
STAIR	528	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	#DIV/0!
Galston Woodland Burial site***	214	214	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!

East Ayrshire Council currently monitors cemetery usage (based on the last five years of burial demand occurring in each cemetery) and this information is used when considering future local provision.

Given the above demand it is envisaged that there may be additional requirement at,

- **Dalrymple (5 Years remaining)**
- **Auchinleck (7 Years remaining)**

Some aspects of changing community requirements have already been touched upon in terms of ethnic and religious diversity, and on maintenance and health and safety. Other aspects which relate to the Green Infrastructure provision of cemeteries have been examined in further detail in the settlement reviews as part of Volume 2.

3. Review of Legislation and Policy

A cemetery is required to provide a specific function for undertaking the formal burial of bodies and or cremated remains and to allow for members of the public to visit graves in a respectful context. As already indicated, there is a requirement for cemeteries to allow for multi-faith burials and an increasing desire for other types of burial service, for example areas to inter ashes, 'green' burials etc.

Cemeteries in East Ayrshire are currently maintained in line with a Service Level Agreement which details soft landscaped maintenance programmes.

The most relevant legislation is The Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act of 1855. The date of this legislation means that there is currently confusion relating to the management and provision of burial facilities, suitable to the requirements of today's society.

The Scottish Executive in 2005 set up a review group covering Burial and Cremation. The group reported in October 2007 and made 33 recommendations.

As part of a consultation on phase I of the implementation of the review groups report, the Scottish Government are to introduce new legislation covering the Certification and Registration of Deaths in May 2015.

Phase 2 of the consultation into the review groups recommendations is to be undertaken early 2015. This part of the consultation will cover the Burial and Cremation services and takes into account the recommendations made by the Infant Cremation Commission chaired by Lord Bonomy.

East Ayrshire Council will respond to the consultation and will update the management rules and this strategy when appropriate, to meet any new legislation or guidelines that may be introduced.

The following legislation relates to burial grounds and cremation.

- The Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855
- Church of Scotland (Property and Endowments) Act 1925
- Church of Scotland (Property and Endowment) Amendment Act 1933
- Cremation Act 1902
- Church of Scotland (Property and Endowments) Act 1925
- Cremation Act 1952
- Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 1935
- Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 1952
- Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 1967
- Cremation (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1985
- The Cremation (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2003

Collectively the legislation allows for the authority to purchase land for new cemeteries, lay-out and embellish burial grounds, make arrangements for funerals and reception of bodies until interment and sell rights to burial and the erection of monuments either in perpetuity or for a limited period. The authority may protect the cemetery and any persons using or working within the facilities. Management Rules are maintained and address issues such as causing wilful disturbance or nuisance which can be subject to a fine. The authority can where required and by due process also close a cemetery.

The change in legislation relating to cremation illustrates a trend towards cremation over burial for the wider population as a whole. Other relevant legislation includes, but is not limited to aspects of planning control, pollution control, health and safety, freedom of information (in relation to burial records), historic monuments and nature conservation.

Currently the legislation does not apply to all burial grounds and commercial or private cemeteries are not covered by the legislation. The upkeep of Church of Scotland burial grounds which have been transferred to Local Authorities under the Church of Scotland (Property and Endowments) Act 1925 lies with the council. Many of these spaces have not had any burials within them for many years and are effectively closed, although there may be on-going maintenance and health and safety concerns and many disused structures which lie within these churchyards.

4. Assessment of Current Trends

Burial trends locally and nationally are showing a move towards cremation in favour of burial in 2000 it is estimated that there were over 900 full body burials in East Ayrshire, compared to 266 at September 2014. There also appears to be an increase in cremation caskets being interred in our cemeteries.

Figures below show the trends in relation to, Registered Deaths, Full body burials and cremation caskets over the last 3 years.

2011/12 Registered deaths = 1358. - Full Body Burials 586 Casket Burials 109

2012/13 Registered deaths = 1417. Full Body Burials 616 - Casket Burials 118

2013/14 Registered deaths = 1521. Full Body Burials 620 - Casket Burials 122

Note - The registration figures shown detail those interments registered in East Ayrshire as well as a number of interments undertaken by the authority, which was registered out with the area.

East Ayrshire Council does not operate a Crematorium. However there are two in close proximity, one at Masonhill, Ayr (South Ayrshire Council) and one at Holmsford Bridge North Ayrshire (Private, Dignity).

5. Quality Assessment of Cemeteries

The quality of cemeteries within East Ayrshire has been examined as part of the overall Green Infrastructure within each settlement and follows the assessment methodology set out in Volume 2 section 1.6 A number of quality indicators have been considered as part of the cemetery audit and specific details for individual cemeteries are detailed in the individual survey contained in Volume 2.

The Cemetery Strategy has not included a detailed safety audit of each cemetery / grave stone, however a general observation has been made in respect of each cemetery, combining anecdotal evidence from East Ayrshire Council and the site survey observations. Whilst safety will be a concern for all public areas, no cemeteries where this has been noted as a particular factor were observed during the survey. Key safety issues concerning the management of cemeteries are discussed in the audit and they include aspects ranging from anti-social behaviour, litter and maintenance.

All public cemeteries (under the control of East Ayrshire Council) with an open status have been included within the overall green infrastructure audits for each settlement. The following table summarises the quality assessment of the cemeteries and churchyards

Assessment Criteria	Auchinleck Cemetery	Auchinleck Churchyard	Catrine	Catrine Churchyard	Cumnock	Barrhill Cemetery	Dalmellington	Dalmellington Old Cemetery	Dalrymple	Dalrymple Churchyard	Darvel	Darvel (Old)	Drongan	Dunlop Cemetery
Meets appropriate DDA requirements/ disabled user needs	5	3	3	1	5	3	5	3	5	5	3	3	3	5
Well located close to a community	5	5	1	5	5	3	5	3	5	5	1	3	3	5
Provide surfaced, high quality paths	5	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Connects with other transport modes	5	5	1	3	3	5	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Allows movement in and between places	5	5	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
Accessible entrances in the right places	5	3	1	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	5	3	5
Offers connecting path network and signage	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	1
Attractive, with a positive image	5	5	1	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	1	5
Attractive setting for urban areas	5	5	1	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	1	5
Quality materials, equipment and furniture	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	1	3
Attractive plants and landscape elements	5	5	1	3	3	1	5	3	3	3	5	5	1	3
Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas	5	5	1	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	1	3

Facilities in clean, safe and usable condition	5	5	1	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	5	3	5
Low levels of litter and adequate bins	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	3	5	5
Well maintained	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5
Contribute positively to biodiversity	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Habitats large enough to sustain wildlife populations	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	3	3
Offers a diversity of habitats	5	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Part of the wider landscape structure and setting	5	5	5	3	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	3	1	5
Connects with wider green networks	5	5	5	3	5	3	5	3	1	1	5	3	1	5
Resource efficient site and facilities	5	5	5	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	5	3
Providing places for social interaction	5	5	3	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	3
Appropriate, high quality facilities meeting needs	5	5	1	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Appropriate facilities for location and size	5	5	3	3	5	3	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	5
Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Adaptable to changing needs and uses	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Community involvement in management	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Safe and welcoming	5	3	1	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	1	5
Good levels of natural surveillance	5	3	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	3	5
No evidence of anti-social behaviour	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	3	5	5
Appropriate lighting levels	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1

Sense of local identity and place	5	5	1	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	5	3	3	5
Good routes to wider community facilities	5	5	1	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	5
Distinctive and memorable places	5	5	1	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	5	3	1	5
Total Score	150	138	72	106	126	100	130	110	86	86	114	92	80	128
Percentage	86	79	41	61	72	57	74	63	49	49	65	53	46	73
Assessment Criteria	Dunlop Churchyard	Fenwick Cemetery	Fenwick	Galston Churchyard	Loudoun Kirk	Galston	Riccarton Cemetery	Riccarton Churchyard	St Andrews Churchyard	Laigh Kirk	Kilmarnock Cemetery	Kilmaurs Churchyard	Kilmaurs	Mauchline Churchyard
Meets appropriate DDA requirements/ disabled user needs	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	3	3	5
Well located close to a community	5	5	5	5	1	3	1	1	5	5	5	5	5	5
Provide surfaced, high quality paths	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	3	5	5	5	3
Connects with other transport modes	3	3	5	5	1	1	5	3	5	3	5	5	5	1
Allows movement in and between places	1	3	1	5	3	1	3	3	5	5	5	3	3	3
Accessible entrances in the right places	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3
Offers connecting path network and signage	1	3	1	5	5	1	1	3	5	5	5	5	5	5

Attractive, with a positive image	5	3	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	3	3	5
Attractive setting for urban areas	5	3	5	5	5	5	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Quality materials, equipment and furniture	3	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	3
Attractive plants and landscape elements	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas	3	3	5	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	3	3	3
Facilities in clean, safe and usable condition	5	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	1
Low levels of litter and adequate bins	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3
Well maintained	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Contribute positively to biodiversity	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Habitats large enough to sustain wildlife populations	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Offers a diversity of habitats	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Part of the wider landscape structure and setting	5	3	5	5	5	3	1	3	5	5	5	5	5	5
Connects with wider green networks	5	3	5	5	5	5	1	3	5	3	5	5	5	5
Resource efficient site and facilities	3	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	5
Providing places for social interaction	3	3	5	5	5	1	3	3	5	5	5	1	1	3
Appropriate, high quality facilities meeting needs	3	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	1
Appropriate facilities for location and size	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	1	3
Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages	1	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	5	1	1	1
Adaptable to changing needs and uses	1	1	3	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	5	1	1	1

Community involvement in management	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Safe and welcoming	5	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	5
Good levels of natural surveillance	5	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	1
No evidence of anti-social behaviour	5	5	5	3	3	5	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	1
Appropriate lighting levels	1	1	1	3	3	1	5	3	3	3	5	1	1	1
Sense of local identity and place	5	3	5	5	5	3	1	5	5	5	3	3	3	5
Good routes to wider community facilities	5	3	3	5	3	3	1	3	5	5	5	3	3	5
Distinctive and memorable places	5	3	5	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	3	1	1	5
Total Score	128	106	140	136	122	112	112	116	136	128	152	108	108	118
Percentage	73	61	80	78	70	64	64	66	78	73	87	62	62	67
Assessment Criteria	Mauchline	Muirkirk	Muirkirk Churchyard	New Cumnock (old)	New Cumnock (new)	Newmilns Churchyard	Newmilns	Ochiltree Old Cemetery	Ochiltree	Patna Churchyard	Patna	Sorn Churchyard	Sorn	Stair Churchyard
Meets appropriate DDA requirements/ disabled user needs	3	5	3	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	3
Well located close to a community	5	3	5	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5

Provide surfaced, high quality paths	5	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	3
Connects with other transport modes	5	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	5	5	1
Allows movement in and between places	5	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	5	5	1
Accessible entrances in the right places	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	3
Offers connecting path network and signage	5	1	3	5	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	5	5	1
Attractive, with a positive image	1	3	3	5	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	3
Attractive setting for urban areas	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	5
Quality materials, equipment and furniture	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	3	5	5	5	5
Attractive plants and landscape elements	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	1	1	3	5	5	5	5
Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Facilities in clean, safe and usable condition	3	5	3	3	3	1	1	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Low levels of litter and adequate bins	3	5	3	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Well maintained	5	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Contribute positively to biodiversity	3	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	3
Habitats large enough to sustain wildlife populations	3	3	3	3	3	5	1	1	1	3	3	5	5	3
Offers a diversity of habitats	1	1	3	3	3	5	1	1	1	3	3	5	5	3
Part of the wider landscape structure and setting	3	5	3	5	5	5	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Connects with wider green networks	3	3	3	5	3	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	3
Resource efficient site and facilities	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	3

Providing places for social interaction	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	5	5	3	3	5	5	3
Appropriate, high quality facilities meeting needs	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	5	5	3	5	5	5	3
Appropriate facilities for location and size	3	5	3	3	3	3	1	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages	1	5	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	5	5	3
Adaptable to changing needs and uses	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Community involvement in management	3	1	1	3	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	5	5	1
Safe and welcoming	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	3
Good levels of natural surveillance	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3
No evidence of anti-social behaviour	3	5	3	3	5	1	3	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
Appropriate lighting levels	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	3
Sense of local identity and place	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	3	3	3	5	5	5	5
Good routes to wider community facilities	5	3	5	5	1	5	1	1	1	3	1	5	5	3
Distinctive and memorable places	5	3	5	5	5	5	3	1	1	3	5	5	5	5
Total Score	114	112	104	108	108	118	70	98	98	100	126	164	164	118
Percentage	65	64	59	62	62	67	40	56	56	57	72	94	94	67

Assessment Criteria	Stair	Stewarton (St. Columbus)	Stewarton
Meets appropriate DDA requirements/ disabled user needs	3	3	5
Well located close to a community	5	5	3
Provide surfaced, high quality paths	3	3	5
Connects with other transport modes	1	5	3
Allows movement in and between places	1	3	3
Accessible entrances in the right places	3	5	5
Offers connecting path network and signage	1	3	3
Attractive, with a positive image	3	3	5
Attractive setting for urban areas	5	5	5
Quality materials, equipment and furniture	5	3	5
Attractive plants and landscape elements	5	5	3
Welcoming boundaries and entrance areas	5	5	5

Facilities in clean, safe and usable condition	5	3	5
Low levels of litter and adequate bins	5	5	5
Well maintained	5	5	5
Contribute positively to biodiversity	3	5	3
Habitats large enough to sustain wildlife populations	3	5	3
Offers a diversity of habitats	3	5	3
Part of the wider landscape structure and setting	5	5	3
Connects with wider green networks	3	3	3
Resource efficient site and facilities	3	3	3
Providing places for social interaction	3	3	5
Appropriate, high quality facilities meeting needs	3	3	5
Appropriate facilities for location and size	5	5	5
Carefully sited facilities for a range of ages	3	1	3
Adaptable to changing needs and uses	1	1	3
Community involvement in management	1	3	3
Safe and welcoming	3	3	3
Good levels of natural surveillance	3	1	5
No evidence of anti-social behaviour	5	3	5
Appropriate lighting levels	3	3	5

Sense of local identity and place	5	5	5
Good routes to wider community facilities	3	5	5
Distinctive and memorable places	5	5	3
Total Score	118	128	138
Percentage	67	73	79

6. Vision for Future Provision

Increasing demands and interest in nature conservation, cultural heritage, and local history are likely to increase the number of cemetery and churchyard visits by non-relatives. As part of the overall Green Network Action Plan for each area (detailed in Volume 2), the following aspects of green infrastructure will be integrated into future cemetery management and development proposals.

i) Landscape Design and Management

Quality of landscape design is lacking in many cemeteries with most of the modern cemeteries presenting a utilitarian layout, responding to maximising burial space rather like car-park provision, at the expense of quality of place. Victorian cemeteries and churchyards often appear to have greater interest and quality in terms of layout and this is assisted by the presence of historic buildings, interesting and attractive memorials, / graves, and the general maturity of the landscape and associated trees.

Higher standards of landscape design in terms of plot layout, master-planning, soft, and hard landscape and provision of landscape features should be aspired too. The overall location, setting, and design of a cemetery should ideally encourage a sense of respectfulness, and provide peace and tranquillity, scenic quality, visual interest and richness as well as a balanced degree of enclosure or privacy without increasing the perception that anti-social behaviour may occur.

ii) Additional Landscape Facilities

Many of the existing open cemeteries with remaining capacity maintain these areas simply as open areas of lawn or cut grass. Opportunities to provide enhanced landscape design, additional facilities and advanced tree and shrub planting could be investigated and would improve the provision of cemetery service overall.

Additional landscape facilities that might be expected could included greater diversity of landscape character within and across the cemetery, more tree planting and tree dedication opportunities (perhaps forming a wider avenue, woodland or forest), encouragement of more public sculpture / art and memorial provision, gardens of rest / and memorial gardens. Boundary treatment and management could also be improved.

It should be noted however that any plan for enhanced landscape and environment provisions must be managed against the need to provide burial space for a community, land availability, cost and on-going maintenance.

iii) Landscape Maintenance

Landscape maintenance of cemeteries within East Ayrshire is generally of a higher standard with cemeteries frequently appearing as the most highly maintained public spaces. This may be a factor of their use and simplicity with many cemeteries requiring in the main, grass cutting to a formalised grid.

Maintenance of lawn areas has been subjected to on-going review and changes to machinery types etc. The result is that maintenance cycles have been reduced. However respect and standards are maintained with the councils Service Level Agreements, whilst recognising that user expectations may not be achieved.

Memorial / stone maintenance is a separate issue (already discussed). Other maintenance issues relate to trees (particularly mature tree), dealing with vandalism / products of antisocial behaviour such as dog fouling, historic monuments and related listed buildings.

iv) Nature Conservation

Many of the current cemeteries have limited nature conservation and bio-diversity value, despite their rural locations. Solutions such as simply allowing grass to grow / reducing landscape maintenance are unlikely to be appropriate. Increased public concerns relating to the environment would tend to demand that this issue is addressed as part of a wider landscape design review of cemetery management.

Conversely older cemeteries tend to have greater nature conservation associations, usually connected to high quality landscape resulting in greater levels of bio-diversity, more mature trees, and shrubs. Still some of these areas could provide further levels of habitat provision and public interest and a number of the older cemeteries also display aspects of over mature vegetation which will require further management, control and renewal.

v) Cultural Heritage

The situation in respect of cultural heritage is similar to nature conservation, with newer cemeteries performing less well (although age of cemetery should not be a restriction on the provision of culturally rich spaces) compared to older cemeteries. Often it is the older, closed sites that present the greatest historical and cultural heritage value.

vi) Multi-Use of Cemeteries

Apart from their intended function as burial areas and places for grieving and remembrance, there is perhaps a growing wider interest and use of some cemeteries, due to their quiet nature. Encouragement of and wider provision for these uses may also be acceptable, within respectable limits.

Other potentially compatible uses of cemeteries include passive recreation (walking, sitting, ti-chi / meditation, reading, and private prayer), historical society / antiquities interest and group lectures / visits, artistic (painting / photography), wildlife interest (bird watching, botany etc), genealogy, and quite family reunions / gatherings.

Considering the continued public interest in cemeteries and churchyards for a variety of reasons (artistic, heritage, cultural, educational, and nature conservation) these areas do continue to serve an important role as public Green Spaces, specifically for quiet contemplation and passive recreational activity and maintained and protected green space within a particular community.