
STORAGE FOR 'PAVEMENT BUGGIES'

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members on the potential to provide, and the estimated cost of provision of storage for 'pavement buggies' at the Council's sheltered schemes for the elderly.
- 1.2 Members' views are sought as to whether provision of storage should be undertaken through the capital programme over a three year period.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A number of tenants in sheltered schemes have bought pavement buggies in order to maintain their mobility within the community. The machines are expensive and do need to be stored in a secure dry area with access to an electricity supply to re-charge the batteries.
- 2.2 After advice from the Fire Safety Officer, tenants were advised that they must keep the buggies within their own accommodation and not within corridors or other communal areas. In addition, tenants with older units were advised to ventilate their homes whilst the batteries are on charge as fumes can be given off at this time. Members will appreciate that this can cause problems with availability of space, and of course the accommodation may lack adequate heat in winter during the charging period. Tenants and Members have asked whether arrangements can be made for secure storage areas elsewhere.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All sheltered schemes were visited to ascertain storage potential and investigations have been made of suppliers. Estimated costs are shown below:

Scheme	Number of spaces possible	Estimate cost of building work. £	Number of buggies Presently used
Chignal House	2	2200	1
The Lavers	3	2000	0
Britton Court	4	4000	3
Hardwick House	2	2000	0
Frances Cottee Lodge	2	1900	2
Rupert Jarvis Court	2	2000	1

Spa Court	3	4000	1
Wedgwood Court	3	2000	1
Romney House	2	2000	0
Pembroke House	3	4500	3
Bell House	Space not available		
Goodmans	Space not available		
Millview Court	Space not available		
Francis Walk	Space not available		

Total Costs for hardstandings:	£26,600
Cost of storage units (26)	<u>£28,600</u>
Total:	<u>£55,200</u>

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All types of storage advertised are lockable but tenants will of course need to insure the vehicles against theft.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Siting of units should be undertaken with care to prevent visual intrusion. Some older units may give off fumes whilst charging and external storage would be safer for the owner and others in the buildings.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Finance is not available within the day to day budget and Members may wish to see this provision undertaken within the capital programme over a three year period.
- 6.2 It is suggested that a weekly rent of £2.80 should be charged to cover electricity and future repairs and if necessary replacement of units. (as a comparison Members are reminded that Council garage tenants pay £5.60 but no electricity supply is available and very few are situated immediately adjacent to properties)
- 6.3 Alternatively, the Council could offer to provide the hardstanding at a rechargeable rate and the tenant purchase and have erected the shelter.
- 6.4 The future control of four unimproved schemes is currently under review and Members will obviously wish to take this into consideration if devising a programme to accommodate buggie garaging.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee determines a policy on the storage of pavement buggies. (HRHM)

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