fixings won’t fit the oversize tubing used for these racks, ‘saddlebag’ style panniers are probably best.

The ride
Both bikes feel controlled and stable even with moderate-to-heavy loads. The key is to avoid carrying a load heavier than about 80% your bodyweight, and to get that weight evenly distributed and as low down as possible. Riding heavily laden is different from regular riding; you need extra time and space for manoeuvres and for stopping. I carried loads of up to 70kg on the Mycle and 45kg on the Velosta, and both coped well. Heavier riders may feel comfortable with even more weight on the back before the ‘tail starts to wag the dog’.

The power systems on both bikes have enough oomph for their load ratings and enough torque for steep hills. The Mycle has the potential to power very heavy loads up steeper hills more easily. By contrast, the power on the Velosta is more subtle but smoother and more responsive to rider pedal input; the Mycle has noticeable lag. On an extended hill-climb test, with 5-10% gradients, the Mycle surged quickly to the top. While the Velosta was slower, I was impressed with its performance given such a small motor. The range of both bikes should be in excess of 30 miles if ridden reasonably carefully over rolling countryside. While the Mycle has twice the battery capacity, it’s also heavier and uses a more powerful motor. Heavier loads and more hills can substantially eat into the range of either bike, of course.

Verdict
Both of these e-cargo bikes are remarkably effective within their brief, and can be tailored with carrying options to meet your needs. If you regularly haul significantly heavier loads, such as a small adult passenger, two children, or very bulky items, the Mycle Cargo is the more practical option. If nipping through traffic or regularly picking up the bike is important to you, the Velosta is a better choice; its low weight and small size distinguish it from heavier e-cargo bikes. Velosta says it was originally designed with a smaller rider and child in mind, for situations where larger cargo bikes would feel unmanageable.