

Dear Councillors

Having cleared an area around the Lakeside toilet, we're hoping to install a number of raised beds as an alternative to the full and half plots we presently offer at Lakeside. We would hope to offer these to current plot holders who are finding their plots difficult to manage, but who are understandably reluctant to lose the benefits that having an allotment brings, as a way of freeing up plots for reletting. Having done some initial research, our preference is for metal raised beds - easier to construct; easier to move; and potentially longer lasting - but have yet to decide which would be best value for money. We would hope to have your agreement in principle to fund the project from the allotment improvement fund, with a maximum budget set in the same way as the cost of the replacement sheds at Newland was agreed. As a ballpark figure, we expect the whole cost to be in the region of £2500 to £3500 depending on the quality and shape of the beds bought, the flexibility of shape possible from the kit, the cost of soil to fill them, and any work around the beds to meet health and safety concerns about access. Construction will be by volunteers from the Lakeside community, and we would hope to have them installed in time for the start of the new season once we have made our final decision on make and design. We believe that this proposal should also be seen in the context of the Council's Strategic Development Plan, achieving far more than simply providing a couple of more plots for people on the waiting list. In particular, it would not only enhance an existing community space at Lakeside but promote inclusivity by extending the opportunity for older members to continue to stay connected to what is an important contributor to mental and physical wellbeing.

Please see below for a summary of the request:

1. Aim -

- 1. To install a number of raised beds as an alternative to full and half plots.*
- 2. Offer to Lakesiders finding plots difficult to manage as a way of freeing up plots for reletting*

2. Advantages

- 1. Better management of the waiting list.*
- 2. Better use of the site - previously neglected areas brought into cultivation.*
- 3. Will extend the range of plot sizes in line with the national picture*
- 4. Will keep longstanding Lakeside tenants connected to the Association with all the advantages it brings to them personally through exercise and community involvement.*
- 5. Will potentially reduce issues of under cultivation.*
- 6. Consistent with the aims of the Strategic Development Plan.*

3. The bid

1. Type of raised bed

- Metal rather than wood*
 - Easier to construct*
 - Long lasting*
 - Easier to relocate*

2. Shape, size

- Rectangular or u shaped depending on best fit in the area. If rectangular, size is approximately 4 metre x .8 x .45 to .8 metre. See*

pictures below for u shaped dimensions, and appearance of both shapes.

3. Number

- Depends on shape of beds selected, but if rectangular, 6 in the first instance, to accommodate approximately 3 extra tenants; if u-shaped, 3 for the same number of tenants.

4. Estimated rental income

- £10 per "plot"

5. Estimated cost

- £2500-£3500 as detailed above to include:

- Cost of beds
- Cost of soil
- Groundwork around the beds

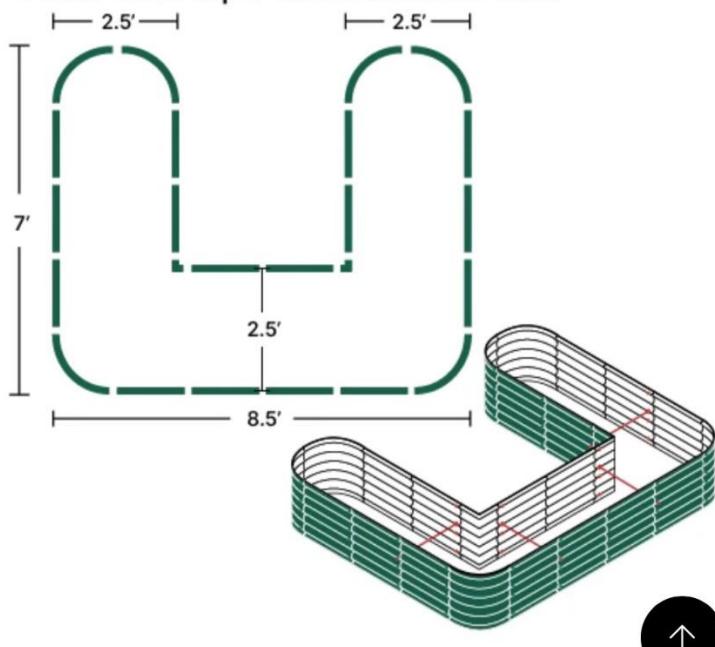
Rectangular beds already installed at Lakeside

Dimensions of possible U-shaped beds

These U shaped raised garden beds offer improved pest resistance and season extension. They also allow for better soil life, drainage, and root growth.

Configuration

17 in.H x 8.5 ft.L x 7 ft.W
Area: 41.81 sq.ft Volume: 58.53 cu.ft



Actual view of u shaped beds

