



## Bike Rack Proposal

### Introduction

In an effort to promote environmentally friendly transportation and enhance the aesthetic appeal of our parish, I propose the installation of bike rack planters at strategic locations within our community. These bike rack planters are not only functional, serving as secure bicycle storage, but also contribute to the beautification of our public spaces through vibrant plant displays.

### Background and Justification

This initiative originated from the Environment Working Group. Following our 2021 survey of residents, 64% expressed that transport was an area that the Parish Council needed to concentrate on to achieve carbon neutrality. The proposed bike rack planters directly address this concern by encouraging more residents to cycle, thereby reducing our carbon footprint. By providing secure and attractive bike storage, we support sustainable transport and enhance the visual appeal of our community spaces.

### Proposal Details

#### Product Description:

The bike rack planters are designed to combine the benefits of cycling and green spaces. Each unit provides secure storage for up to two bicycles while also serving as a solid planter. The planters are manufactured in the UK using robust materials and are designed to withstand all weather conditions. Key features include:

- Accommodation for 2 bicycles per unit.
- Cycle design on the front to indicate use.
- Made of steel with a solid boron steel round bar for maximum security.
- Anti-corrosion coating and polyester powder top-coat in standard green or optional red.
- Weighs 75+ kg when empty and significantly more when filled and wet.
- Permanent ground fixing capability.
- Custom branding options available at additional cost.



Various supplier options:

<https://www.frontyardcompany.co.uk/products/plantlock>

<https://brightwayz.co.uk/shop/scooter-racks-and-outdoors/planter-cycle-rack/>

### Locations and Costs:

I propose the installation of two bike rack planters at each of the following locations:

1. Derry Hill Stores
2. The Lansdowne Hall
3. The Pewsham Pub
4. Studley Gardens Play Area

Each planter costs £350, and with two planters per location, the total cost per location would be £700. For all four locations, the total cost would be:

Planter/Rack Cost = £700 x 4 = £2800

### Custom Branding:

To promote and acknowledge the contribution of the council, we propose to include custom branding on each planter with the text: "Provided by Calne Without Parish Council 2024". This branding not only enhances visibility but also serves as a legacy for the council, given that Calne Without Parish Council will no longer exist in its current form from 2025. This initiative will stand as a testament to the council's commitment to community enhancement and sustainability.

The Custom Branding costs are being confirmed, but allowing for £50 per planter:

Personalised Branding Cost: £50 x 8 = £400

### Additional Costs for Planter Filling:

To ensure the planters are functional and attractive, we will need to fill them with appropriate materials. Below are the estimated quantities and costs per planter:

1. Drainage Stones:

- Quantity: 0.05 cubic meters (approx. 50 liters) per planter
- Cost: £10 per planter

2. Compost:

- Quantity: 0.1 cubic metres (approx. 100 litres) per planter
- Cost: £20 per planter

3. Plants (Shrubs and Small Evergreens):

- Quantity: 4 plants per planter
- Cost: £40 per planter

4. Top Mulch (Bark):

- Quantity: 0.02 cubic metres (approx. 20 litres) per planter
- Cost: £5 per planter

The total additional cost per planter for filling materials is:

Total Filling Cost per Planter = £10 + £20 + £40 + £5 = £75

For all four locations, the total additional cost would be:

Total Filling Cost = £75 x 4 = £300

### Total Project Cost:

Including the cost of the planters and the filling materials, the total project cost is:

Total Project Cost = £2800 + £400 + £300 = £3500

### Alternative Considerations:

We have explored various alternatives before arriving at this recommendation:

1. Wooden Planters: While aesthetically pleasing, the cost of over £5000 each made them impractical.
2. Recycled Plastic Bike Lockers: Although eco-friendly, these options were not attractive and did not fit with the rural character of our parish.
3. Additional Sites: We considered several additional sites, including Derry Hill Church, Blacklands Church, Calstone Church, the nature reserve at High Penn, Studley Methodist Chapel, the Gurkha Baynjan, The George at Sandy Lane, and the Lansdowne Arms. However, we believe our chosen locations will receive the most use and currently lack alternative bike storage solutions.

## Conclusion and Recommendation:

The installation of bike rack planters in key locations around the parish presents an excellent opportunity to support green transportation and enhance the beauty of our community spaces. At a total cost of £3800, this investment is relatively modest given the long-term benefits of promoting a healthier lifestyle, reducing our carbon footprint, and beautifying our parish.

I recommend that the parish council approve the purchase and installation of the bike rack planters as outlined in this proposal, including the custom branding to highlight the council's support. This initiative will serve as a lasting legacy of Calne Without Parish Council, commemorating our commitment to the community even as the council undergoes changes from 2025.

## Next Steps:

Upon approval, we will continue to work with the locations to agree design and installation location. Once the location owner is happy, we will purchase the planters and filling for that location. The planters and fillings will not be purchased until the location is happy with the proposal and ready to install. They may be purchased incrementally rather than all at once.

We will ensure the bike racks are securely installed and filled with drainage stones, compost, plants, and top mulch to provide maximum benefit to our community with minimal maintenance. We will discuss maintenance with each location and agree on responsibilities for maintaining the plants. If plant maintenance isn't possible, we will install the planters with the growing medium and decorative top mulch but without plants. The plants can be added later, by a group willing to maintain.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I look forward to discussing it further at our next council meeting.

Cllr Lucy Campbell Rogers  
Calne Without Parish Council