

Specification for Planters/Up The Pole Planters and Barrow Road flower beds 2024-2027

Specification for flower beds on Ferriby Road and Barrow Road – total area 52m².

Planting up:

The 2 areas are to be planted up in Spring and Autumn each year:

Strip out beds, prepare for planting.

The choice of plants is at the contractor's discretion but each area should contain a minimum of 25 plants per m² suitable for the time of year, the aim being to provide continuous colour all year round. Ferriby Road Beds to be planted with low maintenance pollinator friendly perennials.

Maintenance:

After planting, the beds are to be watered as necessary to prevent drying out and to encourage healthy growth. Watering is to be carried out at the contractor's discretion in order to achieve these aims, at least 6 maintenance visits for spring planting and at least 2 maintenance visits for autumn, but in hot conditions additional watering could be required throughout the Summer months. It is recommended that watering/maintenance visits are carried out before 8am each morning. An advice note listing the days on which maintenance visits have been carried out is to be submitted to the Council on a regular basis.

A total of 39 nr. planters is owned by the council. These comprise rectangular planters 1200 x 600mm plus r. square planters 750 x 750mm, and brick planters situated at various locations around the town (photos of all planters attached). Plus the 2 3tier planters. Rotary Club 3 planters situated near the Haven.

Planting up Planters:

At the end of May, plants are to be removed from all planters and disposed of. Planters are then to be dug over 200mm deep, and slow release fertiliser is to be incorporated. Topsoil is to be added as necessary to maintain a soil level approximately 25mm below the top of the planter. Any compost used must be peat free.

The choice of plants is at the contractor's discretion but a minimum of 28 plants per rectangular planter or 25 plants per square planter are to be used (assuming size of plants is standard "six-pack"). Plants are to be lightly firmed in and then thoroughly watered after planting. Suitable plants could be, Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia Mummularia*), Lobelia, Alyssum, Fuchsia, Aubretia, Bidens, Verbena, Violas, Pansies, Single Marigolds, Erigeron Karvinskianus, Sedums, Cerinthe, Limnantes, Echium, Scabious, Bacopa, Diascia, Heliotrop, Small Salvias, Lavendar, Native Violets, Saxifrage, Cinquefoil, Veronicas, Germander, Wood Sorrel.

For the base of the three tier planters a choice with a choice of herbs, Marjoram, Thyme, Chives and Sage and the next two tiers tumbling tomatoes. For the Whitecross Street Planter this can be planted with Lavendar in the centre and Wild Strawberries can be planted around the perimeter.

At the end of September, the Summer bedding (not the lavender) is to be removed and disposed of, prior to digging the planters over as above and preparing for planting. All planters are then to be planted up with Winter bedding in similar numbers to above. Suitable varieties would include Wallflowers (short varieties), Primrose (*Primula Vulgaris*) Polyanthus and Bellis (from 2021). Winter pansies are not recommended as they have proved to be susceptible to dying off during wet weather.

Maintenance:

After planting in Spring, all planters should be watered as necessary to prevent drying out and to promote healthy growth. This should be at the contractor's discretion but will usually be required at weekly intervals during hot weather. A liquid feed should be incorporated once per fortnight.

Visits should also be carried out when necessary to remove weeds and litter, and also to remove dead heads after the first flush of flower. The contractor is to quote a price per visit, either for watering or for weeding etc., with a total number of 12 visits expected from June to September.

The Winter bedding is not expected to require watering until Spring, but may require weeding and tidying on an occasional basis. A total number of 3 visits is expected from October to May.

An advice note listing the days on which maintenance visits have been carried out is to be submitted to the Council on a fortnightly basis.

Protective covers:

The Council owns a total of 10 square plywood covers plus 2 rectangular covers which are used to protect the planters from damage during Bike Night in July and the Christmas Festival in late November. The contractor is to allow for putting these in place on each occasion, and subsequently for removing them the following day. The planters are to be stored at the contractor's depot between events.

Up the Pole Planters

Compost must be peat free. Plants to include are trailing Lobelia, Alyssum, Fuchsia, Creeping Jenny, Aubretia for the spring and in Winter, Dwarf Wall Flower, Winter Heather and Primula Vulgaris. These units are to be secured onto the specified Heritage Lamp Posts in the town and access must be in line with any Health and Safety Regulations at working at heights.