

Financially, an allotment at about £25 per year (including water charge) is more than fifty times cheaper than renting a room (at £25 per week). How many rooms cover an area of 300 square yards (250 m²)?

ALLOTMENTS PROPOSALS

A fraction of the money spent on unnecessary prestige projects such as the World Student Games could have completely regenerated all the allotment sites in Sheffield. There are many simple and straightforward initiatives that can be made to improve allotment provision for us all.

NEW SITES NEAR POPULATION CENTRES — designed by the people who are going to use them.

REGENERATE OLD SITES — the residual fertility from over 70 years of cultivation can be reclaimed.

ORGANIC-BASED IMPROVEMENTS — provide long-lasting effects when compared with short-term mechanical and chemical methods.

SHARED/COMMUNITY/GROUP PLOTS — should be encouraged, taking into account patterns of social organisation.

INTER-AGENCY APPROACH — combining the skills and experience of different professions, such as health, social services, employment services etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING — assessing the beneficial side-effects and potential savings of improvements in the local environment.

ALLOTMENTS ADVISORS — to provide authoritative advice on site, aspect, soil, infrastructure, contaminants etc. to new and established plot-holders.

REDIRECT WASTE FLOWS — disposal problems of such items as autumn leaves and vegetable refuse can be solved by recycling them into the soil at local processing points.

DECONSTRUCTION INSTEAD OF DEMOLITION — useful materials such as windows and doors could be removed and re-used (e.g. Kelvin flats).