

Water Supply for the Draycott Community Orchard

Prepared by Jeff Monks following discussions with Lynda Dearden. 12 August 2025

Assumptions.

1. There are 10 large and 12 small trees that need water in the summer for 2 years from planting.
2. The 22 trees will require 320 litres of water each week for 26 weeks. Adjust this if there is heavy rain in the summer or a drought in the winter.

Options for water supply.

1. Collect from the downpipes on the hall roof.
2. Pump from a nearby stream.
3. Install a standpipe.
4. Fit a tap on the hall outside wall and run a hose across the carpark.

The Option selected.

The simplest and most cost effective option is the tap on the hall outer wall. For further details and costs of the other options see report dated 21 July 2025. Whilst the green options of collecting rainwater or stream water were attractive, the costs were much higher. The community orchard water usage is very small, only 8,000 litres pa which is about 10% of the usage of the average household.

The proposal.

1. An IBC (1,000 litres) will be installed in the orchard, on the side nearest to the hall carpark. It will be mounted on a timber frame so that a bucket can be placed beneath the tap. At a later stage, if a hosepipe ban is likely, then a 2nd IBC could be added, and the 2 IBCs would provide 6 weeks of water.
2. The IBC will be refilled every 3 weeks from a tap to be mounted on the outside wall of the hall (below the gent's window) using a hosepipe that runs across the carpark. It will take about 2 hours to fill.
3. Two 10 litre buckets will be used to carry the water from the IBC to the 10 large trees (each need 20 litres per week) and the 12 small trees (each need 10 litres per week). The watering will take about 1.5 hours per week.
4. The buckets and the hose pipe and reel will be kept in a locked shed in the orchard.
5. DMH will arrange for the outside tap to be plumbed (complete with stopcock and water meter located beneath sinks in gent's) and will bill the Community Orchard for that installation plus the supply of water. The stopcock will prevent unauthorised use of water and the freezing of the outside tap in winter.

Cost estimates

Whilst discussing this with interested parties it is apparent that a number of these items may be gifted or lent to the community orchard.

One IBC including delivery	£150
Timber support for IBC	£ 40
Hose, Reel, Buckets	£100
Meter, stopcock, outside tap	£ 50
Copper pipe and installation.	£100
16,000 litres (=16 m ³) water	£ 80
Total	<u>£520</u>

Inside Gent's toilet showing position below sink for the meter and stopcock.



Position of the water tap in carpark beneath the window of the Gent's toilet.



A typical IBC, mounted in a cage on a steel pallet.



Inline water meter, stopcock, and outside tap.

