



A chicane is a combination of two features (narrower widths and reduced sight lines). Traffic does not have a clear sight line so will tend to slow down; chicanes may also provide safer, shorter crossing points for pedestrians.

**This entrance to a home zoned road** in Normanton acts as a chicane, using paving, trees and bollards.

There are many design approaches which aim to slow traffic and help with parking problems while making your street look better. These design pages are intended to complement the DIY Streets Pocket Guide and to give you ideas and inspiration about solutions which might work in your street. Some of these features can be created by local residents within your street though some will need the support of your local highways authority.



This chicane in the Netherlands has parking on alternate sides of the road, which reduces the speed at which cars will travel. The use of parking and greenery help achieve this.

This street in the Methleys home zone in Leeds has clear chicanes to slow traffic movement. Trees and soft landscaping on alternate side of the street create these chicanes. This allows children to play more safely in the streets and encourages social interaction generally.



It is important that new street designs are robust so they last and continue to look good. Part of the design process should include thought about how any new features will be maintained. Many of these features could be “adopted” by you and your neighbours, particularly any containers of plants (planters) or greenery, as it is difficult for councils to find money for this type of maintenance. More permanent features will almost certainly be the responsibility of the council due to technical and legal implications. It is essential that they are involved with the development of proposed designs, and the DIY Streets pocket guide gives some advice on how to gain council support.

Deciding on a design can take some time. You may wish to try out designs for an afternoon, by organising residents of the street to try them out using cardboard/wood/paint etc. to stand in the place of your proposed final features.

**Additional pages showing more design ideas are also available. You can obtain them from our web site [www.sustrans.org.uk/diystreets](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/diystreets) or by contacting Sustrans Liveable Neighbourhoods team by phone on 0117 915 0244 or by email at [liveableneighbourhoods@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:liveableneighbourhoods@sustrans.org.uk)**

Photos by:  
Sustrans staff, Ben Hamilton-Baillie, Mark Murphy.

Sustrans, 2 Cathedral Square, Bristol, UK, BS1 5DD  
Registered Charity No: 326550