



Permanent features can create the feel of a pedestrian dominated area and signal to drivers that they are entering a different type of road. This 3.2 metre high steel “D” greets drivers approaching a home zone in Bristol. Accompanied by other small letters, the artwork spells “Dings” (the name of the area) and functions as an attractive and unusual gateway into the home zoned streets. This also reduces sightlines while maintaining a view along the street which in turn slows traffic and improves safety.

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 gateway to the Southville home zone in Bristol incorporates raised greenery in planters, imaginative cycle parking, road narrowing, and a cobble “rumble strip” which all work to emphasise the change to a new type of road. (Home zones which have been “officially designated” usually incorporate the standard blue road sign, but this element of the gateway is probably the least effective in signalling to passers-by that this street is different.)

This is a clear and distinctive gateway in the Netherlands which indicates the entrance to the street. Permanent planters with trees and landscaping enhance the area. Provisions are made for cyclists as they are neither on the street or pedestrian pavement when passing through the gateway.



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 or by contacting Sustrans Liveable Neighbourhoods team by phone on 0117 915 0244 or by email at liveableneighbourhoods@sustrans.org.uk

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