



Soft landscaping can break up a mass of grey tarmac. It may include the introduction of temporary free standing planters along the edge of the road or of permanent features with flowers, bushes, and trees. Trees can be challenging features in the streets because of fears about root growth, but there are many effective strategies for dealing with this – it's important to do your research and seek support from knowledgeable professionals.

These trees narrow the road slightly, but also create a nice gateway to the street (see Design sheet 8 for more gateways). This helps break up the hard landscaping and provides shade to residents in summer. Traffic speeds are also reduced.

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.



Large planters in the Morice Town home zone in Plymouth introduce greenery into the street and make a huge impact. Note how even without the planters, the hanging baskets add significant greenery to the scene. The planters are also a physical change to the street - more on this below.

Trees and small plants positioned between parking spaces in a Dutch street break up the parking area with pockets of greenery.



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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