



Although it seems back to front, one of the best ways to begin to change your street is to start using it for all the purposes that you'd like to be able to (play, catching up with neighbours, walking, cycling). Evidence of life at the fronts of houses, in gardens and on pavements will help to send a message that the street is not simply a thorough-fare for cars. The more residents that take part the better, but these interventions shouldn't require the involvement of the highways authority.

**“Bays in Bloom” in Leeds** was developed by artist Catherine Frances Williams as a way of exploring the effect of colour on people's experience of a street - a bright and cheerful way of making your street a little different from other peoples.

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.



**A street party in Bristol.** While this is only a temporary solution, it will stop all traffic passing through and give you and your neighbours a chance to experience your street in a different way.

### **A front garden competitor in Bristol.**

A spot like this (whether part of a competition or not) seems a pleasant way to ensure life on the street: by enjoying a morning coffee or an afternoon drink on your own park bench while talking to your neighbour!



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)**

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