



Street furniture can enhance the setting with high quality features that will allow the streets to be used by residents. The use of benches positioned carefully will provide seating for residents to chat and socialise in comfort. If positioned under trees, the shade can provide shelter in the summer.

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.



Timber planters can break up hard landscaping. These can hold trees and other green foliage and if placed correctly should form an effective traffic calming measure. They are durable and if left to weather naturally (painted finishes require regular upkeep) can last a long time.

↑ This planter is more costly due to the design, but is fully moveable (with permanent hooks to allow it to be hoisted if necessary). The combined bench/planter is a possible solution where space is limited but both features are desired. Planters needn't be expensive. This one in Bristol → is made from reclaimed railway ties.



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

Photos by:

Sustrans staff, Ben Hamilton-Baillie.

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