



This approach is both fun to create and can have endless variations so that drivers won't know what to expect each time they arrive in the street. This kind of uncertainty is known to have an affect on speeds and driving behaviour.

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.



Temporary art on the road surface in Oxford. The pattern was painted during a street party and trial of possible traffic-calming features. It mirrors the pattern of the telephone cables overhead. (Make sure you check that you can remove the paint easily after the experiment is over – and follow these children’s good example by not interfering with any permanent road markings.)

This street in Holland incorporates a temporary basketball hoop, permanent hopscotch “court” and a tree swing. Although it may seem improbable, this street is also fully open for traffic and parking – but is also used for a huge array of other activities too. As you can see, very little has been done to physically change the street.



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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