

Open call for Pocket Places

Guidance for applicants to Sustrans Scotland's Pocket Places programme

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Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

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Open call for new Pocket Places

If you have an idea that could make your street a more pleasant place to live in - and make it safer for walking, wheeling and cycling - apply now.

What is Pocket Places?

The Pocket Places programme is an opportunity for local communities to shape their neighbourhood and take a lead in making their local area a better place to walk, wheel and cycle. Pocket Places is funded by Transport Scotland and delivered by Sustrans Scotland.

What we are offering

We are offering the services of our Pocket Places design team to help design and implement improvements to local streets. In partnership with the applicant and with support from the local authority we will identify problems on a street, come up with designs to improve the street and find the best way of implementing changes on the street. We work with low cost, non-permanent, simple interventions that make the street a nicer place to live in by reducing traffic issues, improve road safety for people walking, wheeling and cycling and adding colour and life to the street.

We have up to £20,000 available for construction per project and expect to fund four Pocket Places projects in 2020. If you think you have the right idea for a Pocket Place get in touch.

What kind of project can apply for funding?

We are looking to help communities who have ideas for improving their street and who need support to make the change happen.

Pocket Places focuses on simple, quick and low cost changes that can improve the look and feel of a street or neighbourhood. We can fund both short term trials and longer term changes but we are looking for projects with potential to deliver “quick wins” – i.e. an improvement that is visible, has immediate benefit, and can be delivered quickly achieving significant impact in a short time scale or with a small budget.

Examples of problems that make streets poor for people walking, wheeling and cycling:

- It is used as a short cut by drivers and has too much through traffic
- It has double parked cars or pavement parking making access difficult
- Crossing the street is difficult for example because it has wide junctions that allows cars to turn into the street at speed.
- It has a problem with speeding traffic in general.
- It has unused or left over spaces that could be better used as a place for the community to come together.

Examples of interventions that could be delivered through pocket places:

- Colourful planters that can double as bollards keeping cars off pavements.
- Temporary artwork to change the look and feel of a street and calm traffic.
- Temporarily suspending parking spaces to create space for social gatherings and events or pocket parks.
- Narrowing the road with build-outs or other temporary barriers.
- Changing a junction to slow down traffic and make crossing the street safer.

The problems and possible solutions mentioned above are not exhaustive. If you have an idea for how to solve a problem on your street with simple means get in touch and we will discuss with you if it has the potential to become a Pocket Place.

How and when to apply

Deadline for applications

Pocket Places is open for expressions of interest all year round and will typically process applications three times a year in March, July and November. The deadline for applying to the next round of funding is 31 March 2020. The projects selected in this round are expected to begin in June.

Who can apply?

Sustrans Scotland's Pocket Places programme supports community groups, housing associations, business improvement districts and other community-led initiatives to improve their area. The Pocket Places team will help the applicant design a solution in detail and fund the construction of the project. The applicant must be willing and able to take ownership of the project and take on any maintenance required.

Pocket Places involving the road

Please note that projects that include changes to the road requires the support of the local authority because they own the road and are responsible for its use. The Pocket Places team can help the applicant design a solution but for implementation the local authority must support the project and adopt the infrastructure – either as a permanent change or as a temporary trial with a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO).

Further requirements for project delivery and safety

Pocket Places are delivered in partnership between Sustrans and an accountable community partner. Before we start a project we need to sign a partnership agreement which clarifies the roles of the partners. To join in a Pocket Places partnership as a community group you will need to provide the Constitution or Terms of Reference of your group including a Public Liability Insurance certificate before the project commences.

Expectations for project partners

We expect all applicants to consider how they will support us in delivering the project. Key requirements to consider:

- Providing a named contact for the applicant organisation and if relevant the Local Authority or other partners who we can correspond with during the project and is able to make decisions on behalf of that organisation.

- In person attendance at events by the applicant organisation and supporting partners if relevant and a willingness to support the engagement process
- Sustrans Scotland can provide opportunities to develop projects beyond the Pocket Places programme. We ask all applicants to consider alongside supporting partners the next steps and how they might expand on the work of the Pocket Places programme through applications for further support through our other programmes.

The Pocket Places programme

Pocket Places projects will typically go through three main phases:

DISCOVERY

Where we work with the applicant to understand the problem and explore possible solutions in dialogue with the wider community, local authorities, businesses and other local stakeholders.

DESIGN

Where we design solutions in more detail (including estimates of what it will cost, how it can be constructed, how it will be maintained and what permissions are required for it to be delivered) and decide the best solution to trial.

DELIVER

Where we go through the process of getting the necessary permissions and implement the changes on the ground finally celebrating it with the community.

How will the projects be assessed?

Your application will be assessed by Sustrans based on how it meets the aims and objectives of the programme and to what degree it has potential to deliver a “quick win” by joining a partnership with the Pocket Places design team. You can show this through the Expression of Interest form.

Please note that Sustrans Scotland can only be involved in the project for up to one year. Therefore the local project partner (or the local authority) must take on ownership and maintenance duties for the project if it is intended for a longer period.

The Pocket Places Programme Objectives

The Pocket Places programme objectives are:

- To demonstrate the opportunity to make streets more liveable and vibrant.
- To make it easier and more attractive for people to walk, wheel and cycle.
- To inspire and empower community groups to choose how their local area changes.
- To generate support for improving streets among residents, businesses, organisations and local authorities in communities across Scotland.

Potential for quick wins

Pocket Places is about supporting simple, quick improvements to streets. Our assessment will look at the scope of the problem and possible solutions to assess whether it can become a Pocket Places project that is developed, designed in detail *and* constructed within one year. This will depend on many factors among them:

- whether the Local Authority supports the project and will allow it;
- whether the land owner (if the project is on private land) supports the project and will allow it; and
- whether there is a clear plan for the longer term maintenance and responsibility of the project.

Suggested supporting documents

To help Sustrans assess the potential of your idea we suggest you attach the following documents to your Expression of Interest Form if you have them available.

- Map of project area.

- Any initial ideas/sketches produced for the project.
- Map of ownership of the land (and any neighbouring plots that might be affected).
- Map of public utilities.
- Letter of support from the local authority – required if your project includes the carriageway or footway.
- Letter of support from the landowner.
- Any policies and plans that are in line with the intentions of your project.

If you do not have all the details you can still apply for a Pocket Places project.

If other projects are considered more likely to be “quick wins” you can gather more information and apply for the next funding round. It is also possible that your idea is better suited to other strands of funding in Sustrans such as Street Design, Places for Everyone, Art Roots, etc. In that case we may forward your idea to the relevant department.

Useful links

Sustrans Pocket Places Blog: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2019/scotland/pocket-places-scotland/>

Sustrans Street Design in Scotland: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2019/scotland/street-design-in-scotland/>

CASE STUDY

Huntly Crescent, Raploch, Stirling

Sustrans' Pocket Places team worked with residents in Raploch to bring colour and life to their street and to make Huntly Crescent safer for people walking, wheeling and cycling. The pavement was resurfaced and playful thermoplastic circles and a new area of planting were added to bring colour and life to the area.

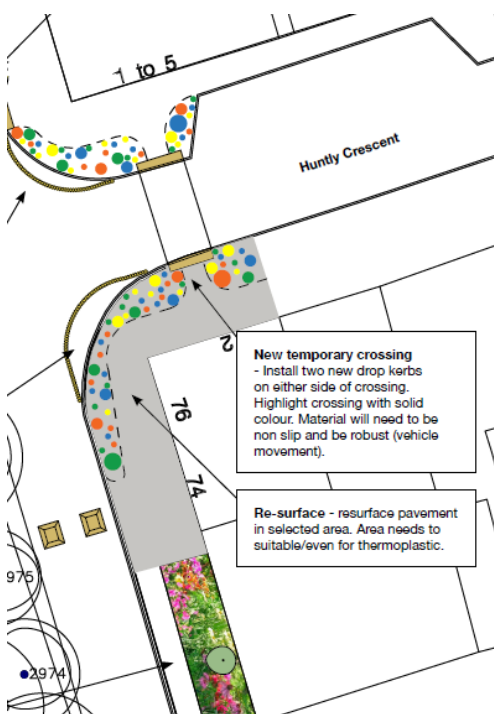
A new informal crossing makes it easier and safer for residents to cross the street and a temporary kerb has been installed to slow down approaching traffic. Stirling Council are currently working on a larger active travel scheme which will replace the temporary project.



The design was developed with input from the wider community.



New planting on Raploch Rd at Huntly Crescent.



Pocket Places Raploch – the final design.



Thermoplastic features on footway add colour.



Temporary kerbs creates a tighter turn and helps slow down traffic entering Huntly Crescent.