Embleton Road SuDS

Southmead











Photos: students at Little Meads Primary Academy and local residents, and photos of the implemented scheme

"It made me think, and feel more important...it made me feel smart, involved and proud!"

Student, Little Meads Primary Academy, Southmead, Bristol

The challenge

Southmead was identified by Bristol City Council Flood Prevention Team as needing to improve surface water drainage to reduce the likelihood of flooding, and to help improve the quality of the water in the River Trym.

Sustrans were commissioned by BCC to run a pilot project to engage the local community in the design of a scheme to retro-fit sustainable urban drainage into the streetscape, and improve road safety.

Embleton Rd provided an opportunity to deliver a project that engaged with a wide section of the local community, including students, parents and residents, providing a high level of awareness within the community, particularly around issues of water management and road safety.

Sustrans' solution

A series of interventions were co-designed with Little Mead school, surrounding residents, Sustrans, BCC and Arup (engineers).

Sustrans ran seven workshops with the school and community, to co-design features to both reduce run-off, and improve road safety.

Interventions included a number of rain-garden planted attenuation build-outs (physical features) to reduce flooding and traffic speeds, and thermoplastic patterns (psychological features) for placemaking and traffic calming.

Key facts:

15,500% increase in rainwater attenuation, improving flood prevention and water quality of the River Trym

46% increased interest in walking and cycling

14% increase in drivers now driving at or under 20mph

100% of people surveyed thought the street environment was improved

60% of residents surveyed felt the new street designs would encourage more people to meet

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