

Southwell and local villages face growing risks from surface water flooding due to climate change. This flyer offers practical ideas and suggestions - all from local volunteers - for actions homeowners and landlords can take to make a difference.

# Make Driveways Green Not Grey!

## 01. Planning

Under permitted development, you do not need planning permission if a new or replacement driveway uses permeable or porous surfacing, or if the rainwater is directed to a lawn, border or soak-away to drain naturally and on-site.

Permission however is required where more than 5 square metres of impermeable ground are created and water enters the highway, because of the pressure this puts on drains.

Search for the NSDC **Self-Assessment Form F** on the web for more guidance.



## 02. Permeability



Reduce the water running off driveways by letting it soak into the ground.

This can be done through the drive itself. Use gravel over a base that allows water to soak away, reduce solid paving to wheel tracks and footpaths, or use porous materials.

You can also help stop water flooding into the drains by directing it to a 'rain garden', such as a depression or ditch, from where it can soak into the ground. Mansfield's new rain gardens are inspirational!

## 03.



## Planting

Plants reduce flood risk by soaking up rainwater, slowing runoff. They also support wildlife with food and shelter.

Creeping jenny, thymes and Erigeron survive in drives as they are low-growing and tough, while evergreen hedges are best for slowing rain. More advice available from Southwell Gardening Club facebook page.

## 04.



## Professionals

Use professionals to work on your drive to ensure the job is done to a high standard, looks good and works well.

Please share your recommendations with the groups below so we can recommend them to others.

# 6 WAYS YOU CAN HELP REDUCE SOUTHWELL FLOOD RISK

## SUPPORT FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS



The flood alleviation works on the Potwell Dyke are finally within reach.

But we can do more, in the short-term and for the long-term, by helping to slow runoff from our gardens and drives. Read on for how!

## PROTECT OLD TREES AND PLANT NEW ONES

Trees help reduce flooding. They delay rainwater from reaching the ground and channel it to their roots, preventing surface runoff.

Additionally, trees clean pollution from the air, produce oxygen and provide shade, that keeps us cool during the summer.



## HEDGES WIN OVER FENCES AND WALLS

Hedges reduce noise, support birds and insects, improve our air quality, and hold back rainwater reducing run-off.

Evergreen hedges are particularly effective as they help throughout the year. Options include cononeaster, escallonia, privet, viburnums, tines, David's and burkwoodii.



## CHOOSE OPTIONS THAT ALLOW WATER TO SOAK AWAY

Rainfall run-off from solid surfaces, like concrete and asphalt, is a major cause of flooding in towns and cities.

To reduce this risk, avoid or minimise hard landscaping and consider alternatives that allow water to infiltrate the ground, such as permeable surfaces, green roofs, and rain gardens.

## MAKE THE DRIVE PART OF YOUR GARDEN



Low-growing plants in your driveway will slow water run-off, provide a home for wildlife, and help cool the area in summer.

They also absorb pollution and produce oxygen, look good, and reduce noise pollution by acting as a buffer between homes and the traffic.

## DIRECT RUNOFF SO PLANTS TAKE THE STRAIN

Drains, even when meeting building regulations, often can't keep up during extreme rainfall events which are becoming more frequent.

Use landscaping to direct water to permeable areas, or install waterbutts helping to slow down and reduce pressure on the drains.

