# Traffic Engineers Creating Places for People

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| It is abundantly clear that how we design our streets and urban places has a direct relationship to how those places are used. We know that creating highly accessible neighbourhoods, with welcoming places and high-quality infrastructure, is far more likely to improve perceptions of safety and security and will ultimately attract increased numbers of walkers and cyclists. This simple logic has a significant role to play in reducing our dependency on motorised vehicles and thus contributing to decarbonising transport. We often think of these schemes as being formulated at the inception of neighbourhoods (structure/master planning) or as grand interventions across existing networks. The large-scale cycle schemes, urban place projects or ‘in your face’ innovating streets projects get the limelight and take much of the focus as to how we can change travel behaviours. However, there is also a significant and very important role for the lowly traffic engineer in contributing to a more sustainable future. The localised, small scale and ‘quick win’ solutions we implement on a daily basis have significant potential to promote change.This presentation will demonstrate how simple and low-cost interventions can have significant impacts on how our networks are used. We will explore the role that the ‘traffic engineers toolbox’ can play in creating attractive neighbourhoods and how, when applied poorly, it can have long lasting and detrimental impacts to our communities. |