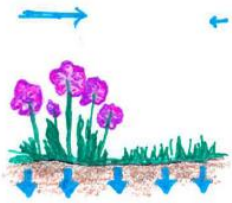
Appendix 3: How residents and small businesses can manage and reduce surface water run-off and flood risk

A3.1 For any site, there are simple steps that can be taken to reduce the volume or rate of its surface water run-off. This may have significant benefits for residents and local businesses and will also help manage or reduce surface water flood risk in the area and/or the wider community. This is in line with part 2 of Local Plan policy EQ8 'Flood risk and surface water'. For small businesses, charities or similar local organisations, such measures could reduce water rates. Examples of measures to reduce or manage surface water discharge are shown below.

- Design, slope and angle surfaces to direct rainwater away from your property to particular areas of the garden where flooding will not cause a problem to you, neighbours or the public highway or pavement (e.g. vegetated areas, rain gardens)

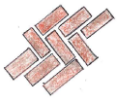
- Vegetated garden areas (e.g. grass or lawns, flower or shrub beds or vegetable plots) rather than large areas of hard, impermeable surfacing



- 'Rain gardens' – vegetated areas within larger hard-surface areas designed and sloped so that surface water flows into them

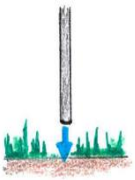
- Tree planting can slow the rate at which rainwater reaches the ground

- Use of permeable (including porous) paving or surfacing and driveways (rather than impermeable surfacing).
  Porous materials include reinforced grass or gravel, porous concrete or porous asphalt.



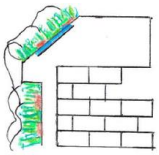
  Permeable materials include clay bricks or concrete blocks, designed to allow water to flow through joints or voids.

- Disconnecting downpipes on garden sheds or greenhouses so that the water runs into the garden or a water butt.



- Water butts used to collect rainwater from houses, bungalows or flats must have an outlet which conforms to the Building Regulations standards.

- Green roofs – planted soil layer constructed on the roof of a building to create a living surface. Water is stored in the soil layer and absorbed by vegetation.



- On-site water recycling, e.g. recycling of surface water run-off or 'greywater' recycling from baths or sinks