



Friends of Chances Park 5 Year Vision

2022-2027



Chances Park 2022- 2028 Vision

Approved and Adopted by Friends of Chances Park Committee 2022

Introduction

Chances Park is a treasured public asset in the heart of Carlisle which is steeped in history, beauty, and culture.

Chances Park supports communities to come together promoting positive health and wellbeing and reducing social isolation.

The Friends of Chances Park is a constituted group of people who value Chances Park and work together to ensure it is well-maintained, cared for and accessible to all. We were established in 2004 and hold our own bank account of which funds are raised and spent to benefit the Park.

“Good open space on our doorstep. Well maintained footpaths, and love that wildlife is encouraged.”

A regular park user, September 2021

What is the purpose of our Vision?

This document is our Vision for Chances Park for 2022 to 2027. It details how we would like the park to develop and what we would like to achieve over the next five years.

This plan is to work together with the local Council who own the land and have the main responsibility to maintain and develop the Park.

What have people who use the park told us?

We have consulted with regular park users, local residents, primary and secondary schools, and businesses to gather their feelings and experiences

of the park. We undertook a survey from August to December 2021 which 108 people completed.

Of the people who completed the survey:
68% lived near the Park and used it regularly.

25% didn't live near the Park but still use it regularly.

53% use the Park more than once a week

27% of people use the Park once a week

All people who responded to the survey shared what they liked about the park. Their answers ranged from the natural beauty, amenities for children and the cleanliness.

People were given the opportunity to share what they felt could be improved and what their hopes were for the Park's future.

We have used this feedback to inform our Vision.

"A lovely open space to exercise, walk your dog, and meet friends. With lovely views across the city."

A Local Resident, August 2021

What are our priorities?

"It's a beautiful place with a lot of other friendly dog walkers."

A local Resident, September 2021

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe, and secure
3. Well maintained and clean
4. Biodiversity, environment, landscape, and heritage
5. Community involvement
6. Promoting our Park

Our priorities align with the Green Flag Award which is a national award for any freely accessible park or green space.

A Welcoming Place

"I love being in the park observing and experiencing the changing seasons with trees and flowers. It is a quiet place with good views of the city and surrounding hills."

A Regular Park User, August 2021

Responsibility: Local Council with support from the Friends of Chances Park

Chances Park is a welcoming and accessible place for all, that has good, safe access with clear signage.

Our aim is to:

- Work with the Council to report any access issues
- Work with the local Police to report any anti-social behaviour
- Work with local young people who use the park to
- Make sure the park entrance counters work, getting new counters on the main entrance of the park from Morton Manner and regularly reviewing the data to check usage.
- Promote equality, diversity, and inclusion activities in the park

Healthy, Safe and Secure

"We are so lucky to have a great little park on our doorsteps. My daughter loves the playground and it's so well equipped."

A Regular Park User, December 2021

Responsibility: Local Council with support from the Friends of Chances Park

Chances Park has a wide provision of quality facilities including new benches and safe play equipment. The top three issues where people felt the park could be improved were:

1. More features and equipment including play equipment suitable for older children and those with disabilities, gym equipment and a labyrinth
2. Better lighting
3. Addressing anti-social behaviour including dog fouling

Our aim is to:

- Work with the local enforcement officers to encourage regular patrols of Chances Park.
- Work with the Council to undertake environmental health awareness raising campaigns including dog fouling.
- Work with local Police to respond to any instances of anti-social behaviour including
- Work with local schools including secondary schools to engage with young people who regularly use the park to raise awareness of the wider impact of anti-social behaviour.
- Review how many bins we have and how regularly they are emptied in the summer.
- Work with the Council to assess the lighting in the park to see if and how it can be improved.

Well Maintained and Clean

“Clean, tidy, well kept, great atmosphere, safe”

A regular Park User, August 2021

Responsibility: Local Council with support from the Friends of Chances Park

Chances Park is well maintained by the Council’s Green Spaces team, and members of the public who use the park.

Our aim is to:

- Maintain close links by having a named point of contact within the Council
- Establish a volunteering gardening group
- Encourage attendance and participation at regular meetings
- Report issues quickly and discuss solutions
- Be positive role models within our local communities
- Continue to work with Probation services

Biodiversity, Environment, Landscape and Heritage

“The open space and how clean and well looked after it is. Brings back child hood memories of playing with friends.”

Regular Park User November 2021

Chances Park is steeped in heritage dating back to the early 1850s when the current landscape was laid out. There are a number of historic features within the Park including the Georgian layout surrounding Morton Manor with a Ha Ha wall and some remaining trees from that period. Throughout the park is a medieval and post medieval ridge and furrow system.

Chances Park is mainly open grassland with designated areas for sport and recreation. The Park features large mature trees, a hay meadow and wild flower areas.

Our aim is to:

- Actively promote the history of the Park by facilitating educational opportunities including ‘history walks’, providing information sheets and maintain the upkeep of the information boards and maps.
- Support the Council to conserve landscape features by early reporting of any issues and encouraging appropriate use of the Park.
- Support the Council to manage environmental impact, minimise waste and undertake climate change activities.

Community Involvement

“A lovely green space with a great park for my son to use. A great friendly place to walk my dog.”

A local Park User September 2021

Responsibility: Local Council with support from the Friends of Chances Park

Chances Park is a valued space for the public, community groups, and organisations including Morton Community Centre, local Schools, Carlisle parkrun.

Our aim is to:

- Introduce an annual survey to engage with the community. We will review responses and take action where needed.
- Actively seek funding and run fundraising events to strengthen the Park’s offer including continuing with successful Body Mind and Spirit Days with the raffle.
- Work closely with Morton Community Centre. We will have regular communication, plan joint activities that benefit our local community and support local schools.
- Support local schools and provide opportunities for children and young people to be involved in the upkeep and development of the Park.
- Undertake a programme of planting bulbs, saplings, wildflowers & bluebells.
- We will protect, support, and develop activities including:
 - Tai Chi – in park or indoors if weather inclement
 - Healthy living walks which use the café after walks
 - Carlisle parkrun
 - Carols at Christmas
 - Manor fest
 - Summer Splash
 - Build Labyrinth
 - Bring back Fairy-day
 - Nature Trails
 - Activity Sheet
 - Bubble Rush

- Recruit more Volunteers including:
 - More Friends of Chances Park members
 - More Gardening volunteers
 - More Event Helpers.

“It’s a brilliant community space and I really enjoy running around it”

Regular Park User August 2021

Promoting our Park

“It’s a hidden gem & always well maintained”

Local Resident, October 2021

Responsibility: Local Council and the Friends of Chances Park

Chances Park is a local resource which is the heart of the Morton community and used regularly by all ages. It is important we have excellent communication to ensure the wider community and local areas know about the Park and what is on offer.

Our aim is to:

- Maintain our notice board and information boards
- Update our website
- Increase our social media reach
- Advertise events using a range of methods including flyers and posters, local media, and local businesses and schools.
- Raise awareness of the Friends of in local community

If you would like more information on how to get involved with the Friends of Chances Park to help us achieve this vision, you can email us at chancesparkfriends@gmail.com