

**Name of building / venue / facility**

Cathkin Recreating Park football pitch and hall

**Name of your organisation**

Friends of Cathkin Park

**Please provide details of the legal status of your organisation**

Charity *(please provide Charity No if applicable)*

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Company Ltd by Guarantee

Community Club/ Sports Club

Other *(please specify)*

Steering group – waiting on approval for GCC re Friends of Cathkin Park

**Do you have a formal constitution/ governance documents?**

*(please provide a copy)*

YES  NO

**We have applied to be registered as a formal Friends of Group and we have the attached Constitution**

**Tell us about your proposal for the building/ venue/ facility and how you see this operating. Provide some detail as to why your organisation is well placed to deliver the benefits that will flow from the proposal.**

As residents and local community users we all make use of the park every day. The formation of the group seeks to empower the local community and ensure that it remains in the hands of the local community.

Local residents use the park every day for football, walking, running, dog walking cycling, conservation and as a meeting place for local residents. With the nature of the pandemic the park has been utilised by local residents more than ever before. Friends of Cathkin Park wish to ensure the park is available to all the local residents to continue to enjoy, as well as to ensure new groups and those without awareness of the park are made aware of its beauty.

It is intended that the Community building would be run by the group for the benefit of the whole community, where local residents can use the facility as a catchup and different activities used in the facility, including classes.

10 years ago this building was used on a daily basis by local residents and community groups. Martial arts groups, Yoga classes, Girl guides groups, Islamic Women groups, pottery groups, Charity groups local residents holding exhibitions could freely use the this building until 2010 when since then only one User group has had sole access.

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We wish to improve Cathkin Park by developing it into a local community hub which the whole of the local community, schools, nursery and local residents can continue to join, with a view to opening the park up further to local residents such as regular use of the Community building for everybody. We wish to ensure the Community Building is available and open to all and can be a meeting point for locals on a regular basis. A rota will be compiled to ensure all local groups are given equal access, while additionally allocated times will be made available for access for non-groups such as residents themselves.

We would be seeking to apply for funding from fellow charities to ensure the park is kept open for all. We would seek to make the park more accessible to all and champion Biodiversity.

Friends of Cathkin Park believes the ownership of the park and building with contribute to community empowerment and engagement under the Community Empowerment Act. It will ensure that the park is open to all and will additionally allow for local community groups and organisations in the area who have not been able to use the facilities at the park to be able to do so. Strategies will be firmly established with local community councils to ensure that any groups and individuals who require use of the building are able to do so and entered onto a rota. Any groups seeking use of the park will be requested to sign up to an agreement ensuring they are willing to comply to a set of conditions and values in view of their use of the park.

Maintenance of the park will be carried out by volunteers again on a rotational basis, for keys for the facilities.

A fully elected committee comprising entirely of residents will deal with any transition periods and prepare for the maintenance and running of the park.

### **Tell us about the benefits that you expect to generate from this proposal and how these might meet an existing need. Will your proposal benefit the local community, a community of interest or both?**

Local residents have for some time been concerned that the park may come under the control of one group or organisation and they have no input as to the long-term future of the park. This led to the establishment of the Friends of Cathkin Park group. Establishing contacts with local Community Councils, to obtain support for the park to remain available for all.

As Representatives for residents, we have a diverse range of experience on board, ensuring we take on board all residents' viewpoints and needs. We are regularly contacted by residents with concerns and have successfully organised a clean-up of the park, with more planned for the near future.

Friends of Cathkin Park believes the continued use of the park for all is vital for all residents for both daily and occasional needs. Fundraising events will be organised as will applications for local grants for the provision of funds to ensure that the park is able to benefit from these. A membership process for joining Friends of Cathkin park is also to be set up.

Due to the pandemic, meetings with residents have been initially been conducted over zoom, but with an easing of restrictions it is anticipated that further meetings will now be able to be held in the park itself.

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We have also established contacts with our local Community Councils with a view to working alongside them for the betterment of the Local Community and the park itself and have received positive feedback from these organisations as well as mentoring. Contact has been made with other local groups about other sports that could be used at the park.

This group is entirely made up of local residents and as local residents we are in a best place to cater to the local community ensuring first and foremost the continued existence of the park and its continual wellbeing.

The group look to ensure the continued presence of the park for local residents and the local community. By redeveloping paths we would be able to offer the park open to more wheelchair users who are perhaps presently not able to access the park as much as they would seek too.

There seems to be a misconception that the Park is solely a football ground and while an important part of its heritage and history was as a famous football stadium this is certainly not the case at all. There is a concern that despite numerous football facilities nearby to be used such as Toryglen Football centre, Holyrood Sports centre and Lesser Hampden there has been too much emphasis over the last decade to accommodate a football team which is detrimental to other sports groups and indeed local residents. In addition to the listed activities of daily use of cycling, dog walking, running or just social gathering, the park used to have signs up with general exercise points, there were Archery classes previously used. There are parts of the park which could be utilised for community garden areas. There is a tarmac area in the park that could also be reused and utilised for activities such as basketball. Yoga groups and other classes could be held on the area that also doubles as a football pitch.

The future of the park in local residents hands and indeed the taking on of the running of the park would allow for greater use of it for community events and for a new exciting step forward for the park, as well as promote greater community volunteering.

We have received positive responses from Mount Florida Community Council and Govanhill Baths Community Trust and indeed a number of our board members are from the latter.

### **What are your plans to generate sufficient income/ grants to be able to sustain the ongoing operating costs of the building/ venue/ facility?**

Membership of Friends of Cathkin Park to support costs, £5 per head, £10 family membership. £0 for the unemployed and students/under 16s

Applications for Grants and assistance to help with the running.

Offer from Cathkin Park Ltd to provide free maintenance to do with terrace, tidying up park etc

Offer of assistance from Third Lanark AC football club and an offer of £20,000 from a Third Lanark supporter to assist with costs etc.

Support from Just giving, Lottery Good Causes, Urban Roots Community Crew, the Heritage Fund.

Opening up the Hall to the entire community and open to all local residents for hire with income from this coming to help with the maintenance of the park and building. A set fee would allow local groups to book the hall to hold events

### **Tell us about any experience you have in managing a building/ venue/ facility.**

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The steering group at present and potential board members (on the approval of GCC) are from various backgrounds and range in experience in work relating managing a venue and community project. The steering group are presently made up of local people wanting the park to be for all. We are currently have contact local organisations to ask to join the group and board.

**Please provide us with any other information that you feel is relevant to your proposal.**

Our vision would be to start to undergo a major consultation exercise offering with the local community, residents, groups, schools there views to ensure that all interests and requests from local residents and the community are listened too and consideration applied too. In this consultation would be asking for view around developing spaces in the park and disseminating information back and developing from the views.

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