

# The Freedom Field



## The Freedom Run

The Freedom Run will provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen the bonds of trust and friendship between assistance dogs and their owners. It will be a safe place, free of distraction and carefully designed to allow access for people with a range of disabilities, including wheelchair users.

Volunteer Service Park Rangers will be recruited to manage The Freedom Run and have the option to exercise their own dogs too. Access will be provided to others on application (a copy of our Terms and Conditions of Use will be available on our website).

There is a great deal of excitement and interest in The Freedom Run and we are determined to ensure there is a robust support programme in place to implement the project and sustain it long into the future.

## Paws for Thought - Memorial Area

The loss of a beloved pet is hard to bear and while considering the many benefits of our project, we arrived at the idea of creating a peaceful and beautiful place of remembrance. We were inspired by the impact the loss of an assistance dog had on someone well known to Manx Blind Welfare Society and their concern that their loving, faithful companion might be forgotten.

Paws for Thought - Memorial Area has touched hearts already and to ensure this place of reflection is shared by the wider community, we hope to make it open to others, and enable them to benefit from its ambience. We believe it will also generate revenue to help with ongoing maintenance through the sale of engraved memorial tags.

The Memorial Area will consist of a patio, garden and Memorial Wall where paw print tags bearing messages about departed pets and their owners will hang. The patio will provide space for larger memorial messages and paw prints, while the garden will be a place of quiet reflection where pets' ashes may be scattered among the flower beds.

## The Sanctuary

The Sanctuary will provide a safe space for blind and visually impaired people and anyone facing challenging times. A space for reflection, The Sanctuary can be shared with a pet, friend or relative and as a tranquil spot to sit quietly, chat, share problems or discuss issues with relevant professionals. However The Sanctuary is used, it will feel safe, calm, quiet and close to nature.

The Sanctuary has been thoughtfully designed with landscaping to ensure each of the three seating areas offer privacy and peace, as well as encouraging birdlife to thrive.

Considerable feedback from members of the blind and visually impaired community has confirmed this special place of relaxation will be much loved.

The Sanctuary will be a place for gentle exercise and a safe nurturing environment in which to reflect on happy times, relax and find calm. This special place aims to cater for a wide range of needs and is designed as a sensory space for blind and visually impaired people. This dynamic area will be small in size but big on impact.





## The Freedom Field

**Manx Blind Welfare Society is pleased to introduce The Freedom Field; a unique project designed to create a series of special places for exercise, relaxation and reflection - an area which will enable the positive therapeutic value of nature to help with physical and mental wellbeing.**

The Freedom Field, which sits between our Corrin Court headquarters and St Ninian's Lower School, will become an invaluable asset to the local community once complete. It will be an oasis of green, sensitively planted to create a natural haven befitting its underlying purpose.

Consisting of three primary zones: The Freedom Run, Paws for Thought - Memorial Area and The Sanctuary, each area has been carefully designed with accessibility and inclusion at the fore.

Although the project is primarily directed towards the Isle of Man's blind and visually impaired community, The Freedom Field will be open to individuals from the wider community who are dealing with a range of challenges. This may include people from health services, support groups and local schools. In addition, the facility will be open to the residents of Heywood Court Sheltered Housing for exercise and relaxation.

We believe the composition of The Freedom Field makes it the first of its kind and will provide a safe haven for those experiencing difficult times in their lives - we're so excited to move forward with this project.

# How you can help

This is a large-scale project which requires substantial funding.

We are a charity reliant entirely upon fundraising, donations and legacies to support the vital services we provide to the Island's blind and visually impaired community. Any funding or donations towards the development of The Freedom Field – however big or small - would be gratefully received.

If you think you can help, please do get in touch!



For further information about the project, please contact Manx Blind Welfare Society.  
Call: **01624 674727**, e-mail: **enquiries@mbws.org.im** or visit: **www.mbws.org.im**  
Corrin Court, Heywood Avenue, Onchan, Isle of Man, IM3 3AP

The Sanctuary

# The Freedom Field

The Freedom Field has been professionally designed to take into account the needs of everyone who will use the facility. Incorporating local flora and fauna, it has been designed to encourage wildlife and will include at least one hedgehog tunnel!

The Freedom Run

entrance

dog wash

new fence

seating

Paws for Thought - Memorial Area



The project will benefit from a two-year professional maintenance programme to ensure The Freedom Field is able to grow, mature and fulfil its full potential.

## Volunteers needed!

Once The Freedom Field is up-and-running we will be recruiting volunteer Service Park Rangers to help maintain and tidy the garden to ensure it is well-looked after and kept at its best. This would require roughly one hour of commitment each week and could be done in lunch hours, evenings or weekends to fit around you. Rangers will even be able to take their own dogs to enjoy the space and get some exercise!

To register your interest, drop us a line at [enquiries@mbws.org.im](mailto:enquiries@mbws.org.im)

