



Spaceshaper— have your say.

A way to have your say about your park, square or street.



What is Spaceshaper? Who is it for?

Spaceshaper is for anyone who is keen to improve their local park, square or street. It's a practical way to measure the quality of a public space, so that it can be improved. That space could be any patch of land used by local people – not just a park, square or street!

Spaceshaper can be used by anyone – from community groups to professionals – before investing time or money improving a space, or to see how well improvements are working. It brings those who use the space together with those who manage and care for it.

“It gave me hope that outside agencies actually do care about our area and are willing to make changes”

How does Spaceshaper work? What can it do?

Spaceshaper works by collecting the views of lots of different people through visiting a site and filling in a questionnaire. A half day workshop then gives everyone the chance to explain what they think about the space. This helps the people who use the space and those who manage it gain a better understanding of how it works for different people, and its strengths and weaknesses. This can help those who look after the space make changes to improve it.



“Spaceshaper has given us a good starting point for a plan of action”

What issues does Spaceshaper look at?

Over the course of the workshop Spaceshaper will look at issues including:

- ▀ Access – finding your way/getting around the space
- ▀ Use – what activities and opportunities the space offers
- ▀ Other people – how the space caters for different needs
- ▀ Maintenance – how clean and cared for the space is
- ▀ Environment – how safe and comfortable the space is
- ▀ Design and appearance – what the space looks like and what it is made from
- ▀ Community – how important the space is to local people
- ▀ You – how the space makes you feel.



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Why should you come to a Spaceshaper event? What happens on the day?

A Spaceshaper event is a great way to meet your neighbours and other people who care about the same place. It gets local residents and community groups talking to the people who care for a space and those who make decisions about it. A facilitator is there to ensure everyone gets a say and to collect useful information for planning improvements. A Spaceshaper day includes a walk around the space you're assessing, a structured discussion, activities and refreshments in a local community venue.

“Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, which was an added bonus”

“Spaceshaper’s ability to examine and illustrate the diversity of opinions... can help to resolve conflicts and create a common understanding of the different ways in which open space is valued”

What has Spaceshaper achieved so far?

In its first year, more than 700 people attended regional ‘taster’ sessions explaining the Spaceshaper process, and of those, 180 trained as Spaceshaper facilitators. These facilitators ran 50 Spaceshaper workshops in England, attracting around 750 participants who assessed local spaces. People from many backgrounds and interests have all found Spaceshaper useful.

- ▣ Access
- ▣ Arts
- ▣ Community groups
- ▣ Crime
- ▣ Construction
- ▣ Education
- ▣ Engineering
- ▣ Health
- ▣ Heritage
- ▣ Housing
- ▣ Local authorities
- ▣ Parks
- ▣ Planning
- ▣ Play
- ▣ Regeneration
- ▣ Tenants and residents associations
- ▣ Tourism
- ▣ Town centre and neighbourhood management
- ▣ Transport
- ▣ Urban design
- ▣ Youth
- ▣ Voluntary sector.

For more information on Spaceshaper, and how you can attend a workshop or become a facilitator, please contact:

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You can download a free copy of the Spaceshaper user’s guide from the web address below – or we can post one to you. All Spaceshaper material can be translated into other languages or converted to large print or Braille. CABE makes every effort to ensure that external Spaceshaper events are accessible to all. Please contact us with any specific requirements you may have.

CABE is the government’s advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. CABE Space is a specialist unit within CABE that aims to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in our towns and cities.

Cover image: Central and Lower Gardens, Bournemouth (Green Flag Award Park)
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