

PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE TRUST

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT POLICY



Policy Sponsor:	Director of Heritage
Approving Body:	Board of Trustees
Date Approved:	July 2017
Date of Last Review:	
Date of Next Review:	July 2019

Introduction

The Landscape Management Policy covers all publically accessible soft landscape, planted and grass areas, properties' front open space areas, trees, hedges, footpaths, street furniture and landscape setting (i.e. adjacent railway banking and New Chester Road). Basic standards of care for the private gardens and ownership boundaries to the backs of the houses are covered under the individual property covenants agreed with PSVT. The policy was written to sit alongside and complement the Built Heritage Policy

Trustees have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of PSVT, in accordance with PSVT's Mission Statement, Memorandum & Articles of Association, and to avoid situations where actions or decisions may adversely impact the landscape of Port Sunlight.

PSVT values and recognises that the village has evolved constantly since its inception in 1889, and we embrace change as part of Port Sunlight's past, present and future. The Landscape Management Policy was adopted to manage and keep careful records of change in an effective and balanced way.

As owners of Registered landscapes in a conservation area, management of change is a statutory requirement, but it also makes good sense. Port Sunlight is valuable for its landscape heritage. Decisions and actions should conserve and enhance the landscape for generations to come.

Statement of intent

All decisions which might impact on the landscape of the village should be considered within this policy framework, taking into consideration all other factors, including cost, marketability, sustainability, biodiversity and suitability for 21st-century society.

The policy is a core document for trustees, staff and volunteers, sets the standards for work commissioned by PSVT and establishes standards of care for agencies with an interest in the village (i.e. Wirral Council and Network Rail), private landlords, housing associations, property letting agencies, PSVT tenants (commercial and residential), designers working in the village and owner-occupiers. PSVT will contribute positively to the natural environment and take a lead in promoting sustainability.

The Policy

Principles for intervention

- All decisions and actions relating to the landscape of Port Sunlight village should respect its historic significance and design.

- Change to the landscape (including maintenance, physical intervention or change of land use) should be sustainable and enhance biodiversity.
- Trees should be managed safely in order to restore planned vistas, improve the quality of life for residents, increase resilience to disease outbreaks and enhance the historic character of the conservation area.
- Where a proposed change to the plant/tree species is suggested this should consider the historical context and period, its location in relation to existing buildings and/or infrastructure and maintenance requirements.
- All decisions should have a bias and preference for repairing original or character features in kind rather than replacing them (even if they are replaced, like-for-like).
- Where external bodies undertake work within the village, e.g. underground services, all work should adopt the principles of this policy and repairs should be invisible (not discernible from original conditions).
- Major interventions (i.e. new developments, major reconstructions) should integrate landscape proposals that are in keeping with the scale, material palette and character of the conservation area.
- If there is a proposal to rebuild a lost heritage landscape feature, this work should only be undertaken if it could be truly authentic to the agreed era (documented with photographs, drawings and archival records). If it is not possible to recreate the lost heritage authentically, the bias should be toward a new design that is in keeping with the heritage character of Port Sunlight.
- It is accepted that the landscape is an ever-changing feature of the village and appropriate succession planting is integrated within the management and maintenance of the landscape.

Documentation

- If proposed work will adversely impact the landscape (and it has been determined that the benefit of the proposed work outweighs the loss or damage to the landscape), then the landscape should be recorded with photographs and/or drawings. These files will become part of the site record and the history of the village.
- All work should be justified or supported by reliable archival information, including period photographs, architectural drawings, maps or site plans, maintenance records and other documents.

Justification for intervention

- Testing and analysis should form the basis for work that could affect the performance, longevity and appearance of the landscape.

Record keeping

- All decisions, justifications, adverse impacts, benefits, direct costs and maintenance costs should be recorded by the decision maker in a central log.
- The log will be reviewed annually to assess performance and to determine if the Landscape Management Policy is properly understood and fit for purpose.

Review

The Landscape Management Policy should be independently reviewed by PSVT and agreed by Trustees every two years to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and current with sustainability, biodiversity and landscape management philosophy and practice.

Equality and diversity

Port Sunlight Village Trust is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We treat everyone fairly according to their needs, regardless of their race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital or civil partnership status, age, disability or pregnancy and maternity status.

To be read in conjunction with:

- Built Heritage Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Access Policy

Contacting Us:

If you would like to contact us to discuss this policy or anything else, the best way to do this is by calling our main office on 0151 644 4800. We will be more than happy to assist you.

You may want to contact us in writing. Our address is:

Port Sunlight Village Trust
23 King George's Drive
Port Sunlight
Wirral
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If you prefer, you can contact us via email: admin@portsunlightvillage.com or you can speak to a member of our team in person by visiting us at our office.