

JOIN OUR BOARD

HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE



Trustee Recruitment Pack

October 2025

A message from our Chair



Dear Potential Trustee,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee of Port Sunlight Village Trust. This is a pivotal moment in our journey as we look to the future of one of the UK's most unique and historically significant heritage sites and communities.

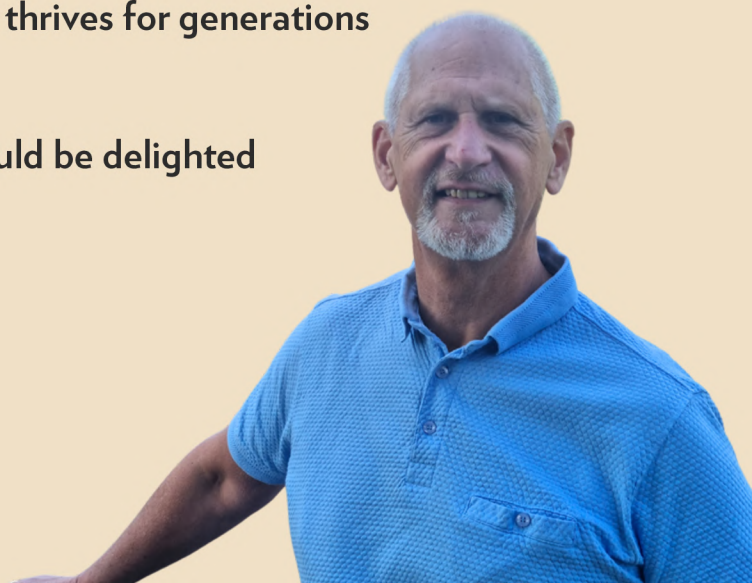
For over 25 years, we have proudly cared for the buildings, landscapes, and stories that make Port Sunlight so special. As custodians of this remarkable industrial model village, we are committed not only to preserving its past but also to evolving it into a place that is environmentally sustainable, socially vibrant, and culturally rich.

Our new Trustees will play a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of the charity, working alongside the talented range of people that make up our Board of Trustees and Leadership Team. From supporting learning and research programmes to engaging with our residents, this is a rare opportunity to contribute to a unique place with national and global significance.

We are seeking individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and career stages. Whether your expertise lies in regeneration, landscape management, cultural development, legal affairs, or beyond, your insight could help us ensure Port Sunlight thrives for generations to come.

If you share our passion and vision, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Best wishes,
Andrew Bowden
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Welcome



Are you passionate about history, heritage, and inspiring future generations?

Would you like to play a key role in the growth and success of one of the UK's most unique places to live and visit?

We are one of the finest surviving industrial worker villages in the world. For more than 25 years, our charity has led the preservation and promotion of the village, its landscape, and museum, and celebrated the unique heritage of the village and its people.

Port Sunlight Village Trust is seeking to appoint new Trustees to join our Executive Board, helping to deliver our vision of an environmentally conscious and socially vibrant place, where residents are happy and engaged, visitors are captivated, and everyone can learn from its stories

With an ambitious plan for the future, this is an exciting moment to get involved. We are seeking individuals who can contribute to our strategic vision and help us expand and enhance the site for future generations.

Could you be part of our future?



About Port Sunlight



In 1888, a visionary idea to provide a beautiful place to live for working class people became a reality.

Port Sunlight is arguably the finest surviving example of early urban planning in the UK, and has remained largely intact since its foundation by William Lever.

Lever built Port Sunlight to house the workers at his soap factory, Lever Brothers, which eventually became the global giant, Unilever.

The village is home to more than 900 Grade II listed buildings set in 130 acres of parkland and gardens. More than 30 different architects created the buildings, monuments

and memorials, and nearly every period of British architecture is represented through revival design.

Port Sunlight was not the first industrial worker village, however here its ideas were combined with provision of green spaces, parkland, and public buildings, which became the key influence on the Garden City Movement.

Today, the village is home to around 2,000 residents who live in its beautiful houses, and is a popular place to live, visit and work.



About us



Port Sunlight Village Trust (PSVT) is an independent charitable trust responsible for preserving and promoting the village. Set up by Unilever in 1999, the Trust works with Port Sunlight's residents to create a self-sustaining village for all who live, visit and work here.

We care for all of the village's parks, gardens, monuments and memorials, as well as the majority of public buildings and nearly a third of the houses. The entire village is a Designated Conservation Area and nearly every building is Grade II listed. We also run Port Sunlight Museum (including the Worker's Cottage and SoapWorks) which celebrates the unique heritage of the village – its

development, architecture, people and landscapes – through special exhibitions, events, learning programmes, and volunteering opportunities, all underpinned by our historical collection and archive. We have around 50 employees and 60 volunteers.

Every year, we spend more than £3 million on cyclical building work, conservation projects, landscape maintenance, and lifelong learning programmes through the museum. To do this work, we rely on grants, charitable donations, and the income received from property rentals, museum admissions, and retail sales. Every penny is reinvested back into the village.





Our vision

An environmentally conscious and socially vibrant place, where residents are happy and engaged, visitors are captivated, and everyone can learn from its stories.



Our mission

We are the charity that keeps Port Sunlight relevant, working with village residents and partners to tell stories, care for historic collections, buildings, and landscapes, and create an inviting place for people to live, work and visit.



Our values

Respectful

We value each other and what different people bring to Port Sunlight. We are inclusive, welcoming to all, and treat people fairly. We reflect the changing world in how we work and tell Port Sunlight's story.

Collaborative

We work with village residents and our partners to make Port Sunlight special. We believe effective communication is fundamental to our work. We find solutions through collective and creative problem solving.

Progressive

We are always looking for innovative ideas and new opportunities. We learn from the past to shape Port Sunlight's future. We support and encourage one another to learn, grow and act.

Genuine

We are proud to represent Port Sunlight and excited for the future. We are approachable, ready to engage, and willing to listen. We are honest with ourselves, and transparent with our residents and other stakeholders.

The role



Role Title: Trustee

Vacancies: 2-3

Salary: Unpaid

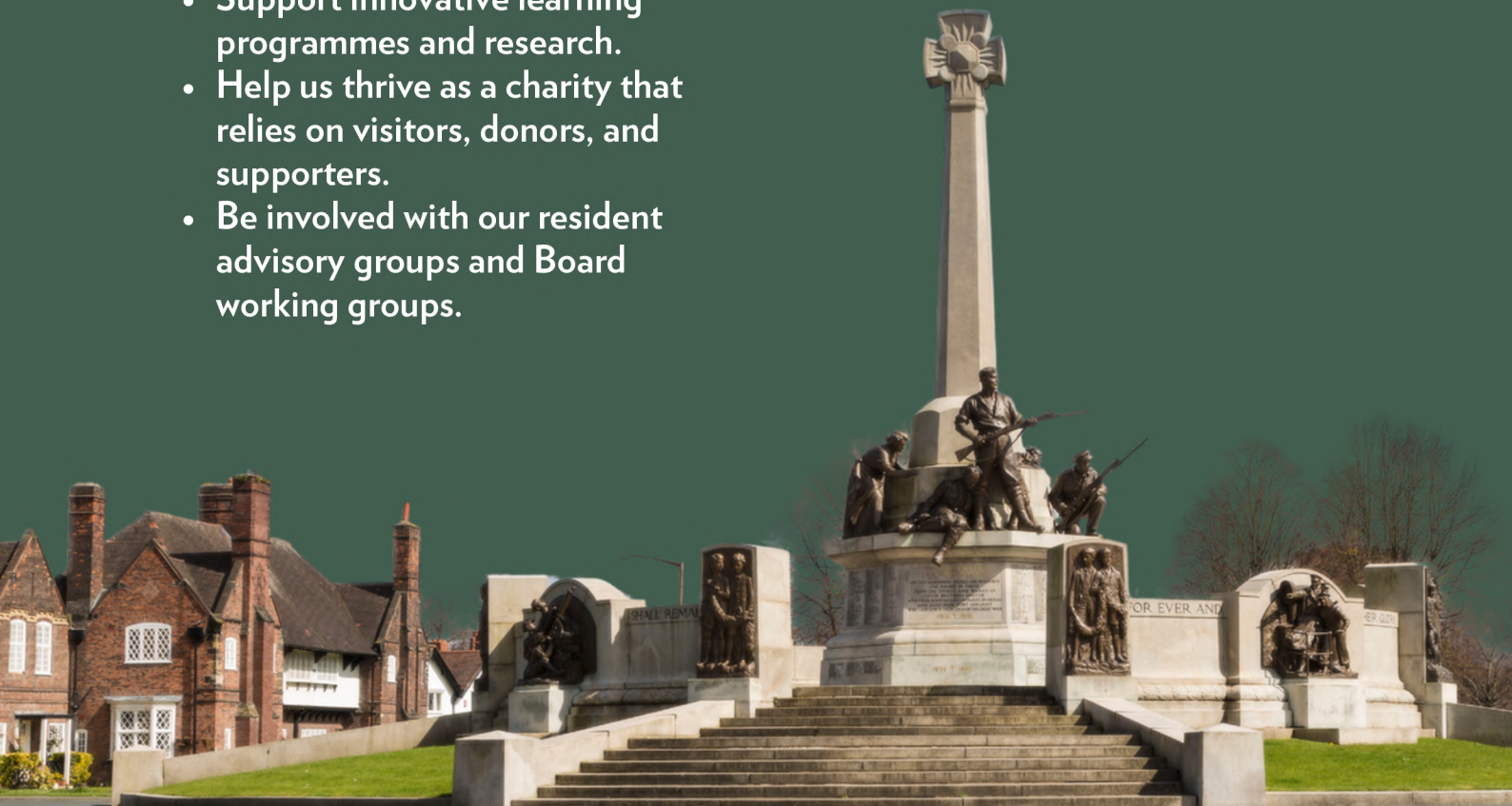
Time commitment: Part time – typically 4 half days a year for Board meetings, two away-days, plus involvement in working and advisory groups

Location: Wirral, with some meetings online

This is a great opportunity to develop your skills and broaden your understanding of museums and heritage, conservation, housing and landscape management. The role is voluntary and Trustees can claim expenses including those incurred for travel.

As a Trustee, you will help shape the future of Port Sunlight. This is your chance to:

- Play a central role in our ambitious plans.
- Support innovative learning programmes and research.
- Help us thrive as a charity that relies on visitors, donors, and supporters.
- Be involved with our resident advisory groups and Board working groups.



About you



We are especially interested in candidates with expertise in regeneration, landscape management, cultural and visitor destination development, capital project development, data management and legal.

You don't have to work or volunteer in the museum and heritage, housing or landscape sectors, but an interest in one or more of these areas is important. People at all stages of their careers are welcome. We welcome applications from anyone regardless of sex, gender identity, disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status, age or nationality.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals who can help broaden the diversity of our Board in the following underrepresented areas:

- Under the age of 34
- Under the age of 49
- Lived experience of disability
- Ethnicity
- LGBTQ+
- Neurodivergent

We are keen to hear from younger applicants, who can bring their passions and lived experiences to the role, and shadow Trustee roles will be considered alongside full Trustee roles if required.

Reasonable adjustments can be made to support you in fulfilling the role. We're happy to discuss this with you before you apply.



Interested?



GET IN TOUCH

Before applying to be a Trustee, you may wish to find out more about what's involved and how the process will work.

If you wish to have a chat with either our CEO Designate Mike Ward or our Chair Andrew Bowden, please email trusteerecruitment@portsunlightvillage.com

READY TO APPLY?

Applications should be sent by email to trusteerecruitment@portsunlightvillage.com

Your application should include:

- A CV including a full employment history showing responsibilities held and relevant achievements; an email and mobile phone number and the contact details for 2 referees
- A covering letter (1-2 sides of A4) or video (3-5 minutes) telling us why you are interested in being a trustee at Port Sunlight Village Trust and what skills you would bring to the Board.

The deadline to apply is Friday 28 November 2025, with interviews taking place in early January 2026.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch and we look forward to hearing from you.



Useful links



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, LINKEDIN
AND TIKTOK

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND TRUSTEES

EXPLORE OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-28

EXPLORE OUR CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

MEET OUR COMMERCIAL PARTNERS