

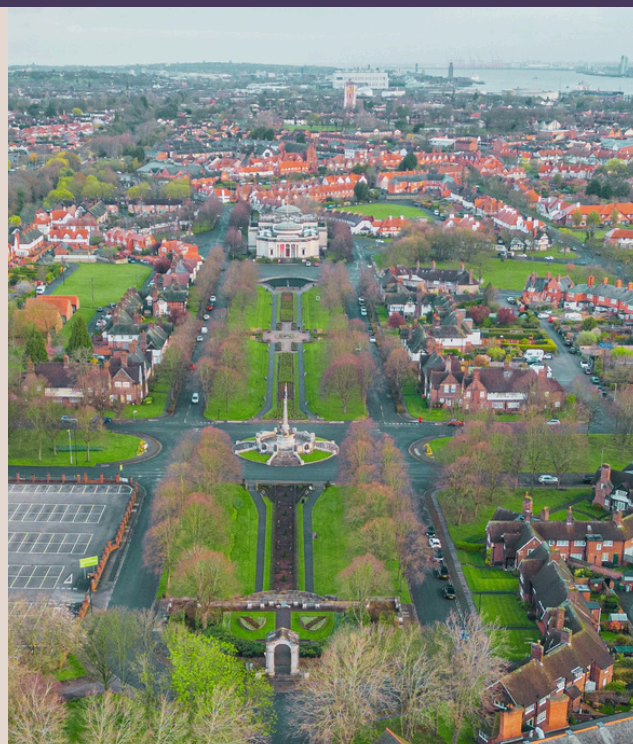
THE RESIDENTS' UPDATE

AUTUMN 2026

ANNUAL RESIDENTS FEEDBACK SURVEY

Every year, we gather your views as residents – both owner-occupiers and tenants – on what's happening in Port Sunlight and the work we're doing to look after and support this special place.

To take part, scan the QR code or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnnualResidentsSurvey2026
Alternatively you can complete the form on the back page and return to Port Sunlight Museum
Please complete by 31 October.



TREES IN WIRRAL: PROTECTING, CELEBRATING AND CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

An update from Wirral Council's Tree Team

Trees are one of Wirral's greatest assets. They improve air quality, provide shade, support wildlife, store carbon, help reduce flooding and contribute enormously to the character of our towns, villages and parks. They also connect us to our local history,

and nowhere is that more evident than in Port Sunlight, where trees form an important part of the village's world-famous landscape and heritage.

Wirral's commitment to protecting and enhancing its urban forest has been recognised internationally. In 2023, Wirral was awarded Tree City of the World status, acknowledging the borough's dedication to the management, protection and celebration of trees and woodlands.

Looking after thousands of trees across the borough is a year-round responsibility. Trees are inspected, monitored and managed to help ensure they remain safe, healthy and resilient for future generations. This work includes identifying pests and diseases, undertaking necessary

maintenance, protecting valuable habitats and planting new trees to secure the long-term future of Wirral's treescape.

Residents who would like to become more involved can join the Wirral Tree Warden Network, a friendly and growing community of volunteers passionate about trees and the environment. Tree Wardens help support local tree planting, attend guided walks, take part in educational events and workshops, and work alongside others who share an interest in protecting and celebrating trees. No previous knowledge or experience is required, and everyone is welcome.

We're also encouraging people to discover more about the remarkable variety of trees growing across Wirral through our new self-guided tree trails. Currently available in five parks, the trails highlight notable species using maps and botanical tree labels, helping visitors learn more about the trees around them while enjoying time outdoors. Additional trails will be added over time, allowing more people to explore and appreciate Wirral's diverse treescape. The trails can be downloaded from the Wirral Council website by searching "Wirral Tree Trails".

As we celebrate Wirral's trees, we are particularly keen to learn more about the heritage of significant trees within Port Sunlight itself. Many of the village's trees may have fascinating stories connected to the area's development, landscape design and community life. Local knowledge, photographs, memories and family stories can help us better understand and protect these living links to the past.

One of Wirral's most remarkable trees is the ancient St Mary's Yew in Eastham. Thought to be between 1,300 and 1,600 years old, it is believed to be the oldest tree on the Wirral and was already considered ancient when St Mary's Church was established in the 12th century. Its survival is a reminder that trees can outlive generations, serving as living witnesses to our shared history.



If you'd like to get involved in caring for and celebrating Wirral's trees, why not join the Wirral Tree Warden Network? Tree Wardens take part in tree walks, planting projects, workshops and community events, and no previous experience is required.

To join, simply email wirraltreewardens@wirral.gov.uk and we'll send you information about the network and details of the next induction session.

And if you have stories, historic photographs or memories about trees in Port Sunlight, we'd love to hear from you. Please share them with the Council's Tree Team at treestrategymailings@wirral.gov.uk. Together, we can help celebrate and protect both the village's trees and the rich heritage they represent for future generations.



WHAT THE NEW NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK MEANS FOR HOMEOWNERS

An update from Wirral Council's Conservation Team

The Government has published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which came into effect on 17 August 2026. While this may sound like a technical planning document, the changes will affect how planning applications and Listed Building Consent applications are assessed across England, including here in Port Sunlight.

The new Framework introduces a different way of assessing the impact of development on heritage assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites.

One of the biggest changes is the removal of the term "less than substantial harm", which has been a familiar part of heritage planning for many years.

Instead, heritage assessments must now identify whether proposed works would have:

- A positive effect
- No effect
- Harm
- Substantial harm
- Total loss

The new approach places greater emphasis on understanding the significance of historic buildings and other heritage assets before changes are proposed.

The revised Framework also formally recognises that development can have positive effects on heritage assets. This includes work that repairs historic fabric, improves the condition of a building, reveals important historic features, or helps secure the long-term future of a heritage asset.

Another notable change is that the Government now specifically recognises certain public benefits when weighing planning decisions. These can include

bringing vacant historic buildings back into use, improving energy efficiency and installing low-carbon heating systems where these can be achieved without causing unacceptable harm to heritage significance.

For residents of Port Sunlight, this is particularly relevant as many people are looking for ways to improve the energy performance of listed properties while respecting their historic character.

The new Framework also places greater importance on understanding the significance of a heritage asset and assessing how proposed works would affect it. Heritage assessments should be proportionate and focused on the impact.

As a result, applicants are expected to provide a Heritage Impact Assessment that explains:

- Why a building or place is significant
- How the proposal would affect that significance
- Whether the effect would be positive, neutral or harmful

Although the terminology has changed, the overall principle remains familiar: decision-makers must balance the protection of heritage assets against the benefits that development may bring.

For Port Sunlight, the key message is that heritage remains an important consideration in planning decisions, but the revised Framework provides clearer recognition of positive heritage outcomes and sensitively designed sustainability improvements.

If you are considering alterations to your property and are unsure what information may be required to support an application, we recommend discussing proposals at an early stage with Port Sunlight Village Trust.

ANNUAL RESIDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback. Your responses help us improve our services and the experience of living in the village.

Please rate each question on a scale of 1 to 5 by circling your answer:
(1 = Very poor/Very dissatisfied/Never, 5 = Excellent/Very satisfied/Always)

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with the services provided by the Trust?

1 2 3 4 5

2. How well do we communicate with you (e.g. updates, notices, newsletters)?

1 2 3 4 5

3. Do you feel that the Trust listens to residents' views and concerns?

1 2 3 4 5

4. How satisfied are you with the appearance and upkeep of the village (green spaces, streets, shared areas)?

a. fronts of properties/gardens and parks (maintained by the Trust)

1 2 3 4 5

b. street pavements and roads (maintained by Wirral Council)

1 2 3 4 5

5. If you rent your home from the Trust, how satisfied are you with your tenancy experience?

1 2 3 4 5 ☐ Not applicable

6. How often would you like the Trust to bring residents together for a Residents' Meeting?

7. What is the one thing we do best?

8. What is the one thing we could improve?

Thank you for your feedback. Please cut out this page and return to our reception above Port Sunlight Museum (23 King George's Drive) or put in the post box.