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# What is the purpose of the Trust?

## A brief explanation for new residents

The Suburb is a unique area which represents an ideal for living developed by social reformers as a reaction to the slums of nineteenth century cities. These ideals are manifest in similar developments like Port Sunlight, Bourneville, and Letchworth and Welwyn Garden Cities; but nowhere is their application as complete and so well conserved as in Hampstead Garden Suburb. The architects and planners of the Suburb were the best talents of the day; their pioneering work has mellowed and matured into one of the most desirable residential areas in London.

The object and principal activity of the Trust is to 'maintain and preserve the present character and amenities' – particularly the landscape and architecture – of the Suburb. The Trust was created in its current form principally to control alterations to properties once they became freehold under the Leasehold Reform Act 1967 and were released from the tight control of the original leases drawn up by the Suburb's founders. In 1974 the High Court approved the Scheme of Management for the freehold properties on the Suburb – which the Trust now operates. Since 1974 the great majority of the houses and many of the flats on the Suburb have become freehold and fall within the Scheme of Management; the numbers increase year by year. In 1988 the Trust acquired the freeholds of all the long leasehold properties on the Suburb (including most of the blocks of flats) from Ashdale Land and Property Company Ltd. Through these leases, the freehold ownership of 11 allotment sites, 27 un-adopted roads, some 50 other communal open spaces and the Scheme of Management

itself, the Trust can maintain a unified control over nearly all Suburb properties and the trees, hedges and many of the communal areas around them. (Control of the public highways and the larger open spaces rests with the London Borough of Barnet and Transport for London.)

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and is also registered as a charity. The Trust's charitable purposes cover the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, environmental protection and improvement. Hampstead Garden Suburb is internationally recognised as the finest and best realised example of English twentieth century domestic architecture, landscape and planning. The public benefit extends far beyond the 16,000 or so residents of the Suburb to the international community – lay and professional – with an interest in architecture, planning and social history. The lessons to be learnt from the ethos, history, landscape and architecture of the Suburb will benefit both present and future generations.



*Tree of Heaven in Meadway*

*Beech hedges in Hampstead Way*

