

From:

Sent: 22 March 2023 10:18

To: charlotte; Planning

Subject: Planning application 2023/0207/P ; Trees

I am writing to comment about the planning application for development at 26 Netherhall Gardens, intended to supersede previous permission for a new extension. I was pleased to see that no basement is now proposed – that is definitely an improvement on the previous plans, as is the proposal for 3, not 4, flats which will slightly reduce the density.

I note however, the proposals to fell five trees. I am writing to ask that you impose a condition on the planning consent that will require the planting of at least five replacement mature or semi-mature native trees. Given the well-recognised importance of trees in the conservation area and the tree strategies of both local and central government which require enhanced tree planting, it seems particularly important that trees which stand in the way of development should always be replaced elsewhere on the site with trees at approximately the same level of maturity.

I have had a good look at the plans and related documents and walked along to have a look. As I understand it, five trees are to be removed. In the front garden they are trees numbered 11, 13 and 14 on the plans, and respectively a holly, an ash and a willow. I think I managed to identify them from the road. The ash seems to me likely to have grown from a seedling – if a garden isn't carefully weeded that can so easily happen especially with ash trees – and it is definitely the wrong tree in the wrong place. The holly is a pretty, nicely shaped tree, but not very large, and the willow is similar. I don't think any of them would be a disastrous loss if the developers were held tightly to conditions which required them, after the work is done, to landscape the front with at least as many, and preferably more, semi mature native trees to replace the losses.

In the back garden the trees are 7, a holly, and 8, a semi mature lime. I can't identify these, but if the lime is the one I think I could see, it is nothing like as big as the others. Again it would be a loss, but again, given the survival of all the really large limes, I think proper replacement planting (which will not be cheap for the developer!) could probably compensate for the loss.

Anne Stevens

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