

Lucas Hadjilucas
Flat 16 Kenmore Court
26-28 Acol Road
London NW6 3AG

5th of June 2023

Re: Comments on Planning Application 2023/2011/T

Dear Camden Council,

I am writing to object to the proposal, as currently submitted, for work on the trees in the property of Flat 10, Kenmore Court.

The application states that the trees will be 'reduced to their original trunk state'. This is vague with respect to what work is meant to be carried out and jeopardises to detrimentally damage the trees currently under a protection order.

While trimming is important, plum and lime trees require different approaches. For example, while a plum tree might benefit from lacing, this should be avoided on a citrus tree as summer sunlight can damage its interior. In addition, flush cuts which reduce to trunk, as suggested in this application, remove the branch collar, an area of tissue that's needed to form a seal over the cut. Because the tree cannot close over the wound, a flush cut leaves an opening for pests and pathogens to enter the tree. This can irreversibly damage the tree.

Whilst I understand that that an obstruction to pedestrians in Acol Road might arise if unchecked, the amount of pruning does not need to be so drastic as it can be restricted to the lower branches. I would ask you to visit the site to assess for yourself. If nothing else, it provides a cool shade in summers that are becoming increasingly warmer.

Both trees are a valuable amenity, providing welcome greenery and habitat for the local fauna of West Hampstead and the conservation area. They offer an attractive view and a cool shade to the residents of the area.

A reduction of long branches to ~25% of size, tidying up both trees into appropriate shapes (e.g. goblet), and a planning application drafted with the help of a tree surgeon who understands the different approaches needed for these trees would be appropriate here.

I understand that this might seem tedious, but trees are becoming a valuable commodity in an ever expanding, busy metropolitan area such as ours. If we all acknowledge this, we must be considerate and accountable for their due care.

Kind regards,
Lucas Hadjilucas