

From: Lewis Hedges

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 1:43 PM

To: Planning

Subject: Application reference 2024/1289/T - Sycamore Felling

Dear Camden Council,

This is an email regarding the proposed butchering of the sycamore tree in the rear garden of 9 Inglewood Road. We, as local residents on Dennington Park Road, vehemently oppose the supercedence of the tree's TPO and its felling on environmental and aesthetic grounds.

In a political landscape of criminalised activism against the looming threat of climate collapse, every small act against our natural world adds further fuel to the fire that is consuming our once-green planet. To destroy a living organism with a vital role in regulating our planet's carbon emissions for reasons of convenience is, frankly, disgusting and invites further encroachment against common standards of decency and environmental protection. If we allow this beautiful sycamore to be cut down, we embolden those who would seek to destroy our planet in the name of 'shareholder value'. The application cites the following reasons for felling this tree: "*Over mature for garden, unsuitable for reduction given the characteristics of the tree and regrowth pattern, decay pockets, girdled roots, decay at the base, affecting the neighbours, blocking light, affecting the boundary*". Clearly the majority of "reasons" given are spurious - it could obviously be slightly reduced in size without felling; it does not block much light at all since the area it sits in is encircled by buildings - it is the buildings which block the vast majority of light; for too long have trees in this country been felled on false claims of decay; it is clear to see that the main reason is purely aesthetic and we strongly oppose such a superficial and vacuous excuse to cut down a perfectly healthy tree.

Alongside the macroenvironmental position, we feel the sycamore itself plays a vital role in our daily lives and enriches our time on this earth to such an extent that we would all be noticeably worse off for its destruction. Most mornings, my flatmates and I awake and make coffee in our kitchen, looking out over the gardens. Almost daily, a fluttering of robins, tits, pigeons, sparrows and other small birds will flit from that sycamore to our window, to peck at the seeds in our birdfeeder. The wind rustles gently through the sycamore leaves, whispering of better days and the beauty to be found in the mundane. To cut this tree is to cut at our very souls, and I cannot stand idly by

and let that happen. Furthermore, it would put a needless strain on the local squirrel population, who feed on the buds that the sycamore produces.

Lastly, and arguably most importantly, the applicant who wishes to commit this heinous act is not even the owner of the tree, according to their own application form! If this is allowed to happen what sort of precedent does it set? Will neighbours start tearing up each others lawns, hacking down bushes or stealing each others soil, all in the name of cosmetic myopia? We can not simply stand idly by and bear witness to the ecological terrorism.

The felling of this sycamore tree would be a grave mistake. Do not let it happen.