

Application ref: 2024/1921/T
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Date: 1 July 2024

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Keith Archers Tree Care Ltd.
154 Lodge Lane
Grays
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RM16 2TS

Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 (as amended)

OBJECTION TO SECTION 211 NOTICE OF WORKS TO TREE/S IN A CONSERVATION AREA

Address:

**37 Eton Avenue
London
NW3 3EP**

Description:

REAR GARDEN: 1 x Tree of Heaven (T1) - Fell as close to ground level as possible.

The Council has considered your notification of intended works to trees dated 15 May 2024 and decided to **OBJECT** for the following reasons:

Reasons for objection:

- 1 The S.211 notification is to remove a large (c.>12m tall), mature Tree of Heaven tree in the rear garden of a private residence on Eton Avenue, situated within the Belsize Park Conservation Area.
The proposed work to fell the tree is due to the tree 'damaging the wall'. A building surveyors report submitted as supporting evidence alleges that root action by the trees in the rear garden 'especially the (...) large Tree of Heaven and the pollarded Sycamore, are likely to have caused most of if not all of the rotational movement the boundary wall.' The surveyor states that as the wall has 'suffered excessive rotational movement and, and is severely cracked, consideration will need to be given to taking the wall down (...) and rebuilding it.' No (other) evidence to support this allegation has been provided.
A site visit has confirmed that the tree is readily visible from between the properties no.37 and no.39, and from Merton Rise to the east. The crown

appears to be in good health and makes a significant contribution to the leafy, verdant character of the conservation area. The tree appears to be in at least fair condition both physiologically and structurally and to have a significant safe useful life expectancy, though no inspection of the tree has been carried out. An engineering solution is available, i.e., the wall can be re-built - the surveyors report suggests that this is the remedial action needed to correct the issue. The removal of the Tree of Heaven would result in a significant reduction of the amenity that the tree provides in this part of the conservation area. The reasons for removal are not robust enough to justify the removal of the tree. The Council objects to the proposed removal, and a Tree Preservation Order will be served to protect the amenity that the tree provides and to help preserve the character and appearance of the conservation area.

A Tree Preservation Order has been served on the tree/s and no work should be carried out without the prior consent of the Council.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPope', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Pope
Chief Planning Officer

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