

Gillian Tindall

27 Leighton Road
London NW5 2QG

Chief Planning Officer
Planning dept.
Camden Town Hall Extension
Argyle St. WC1H 8EQ

26 June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. Intended Works to Trees in Conservation Area, 2024/2420/T 26 Leighton Rd.

There appears for the week of 17th inst. an application – expressed as 'intention' – to fell to the ground and treat the stumps of every tree in the rear garden of a Listed house, 26 Leighton Rd. This house forms one entity with no.28 with which it in fact still appears to share its garden. The trees are an apple, a lime and a mimosa. The house, which pre-dates almost any other in Kentish Town, is discernible on the map of 1804, and is therefore pre-Regency Georgian.

The ostensible reason for this degree of would-be habitat-destruction appears to be that the tree roots are 'undermining' the house, but I do not think this is true. It certainly cannot be true of the apple tree, or probably the lime, or even the mimosa – since none of the trees is sufficiently close to the rear of the house to constitute a clear hazard. While the mimosa is undoubtedly large, it has been there for many decades.

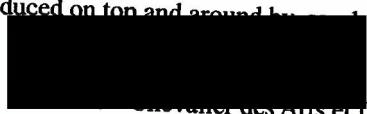
What IS a far more probable reason for any instability in the house is the presence behind the trees of the deep railway cutting, which of course long post-dates the building of the house.

When what is now 26-28 Leighton Rd. was built, its rear garden was considerably longer than it is today, and in fact remained quite a bit longer when a railway cutting was first made c.1865. This was for a single line, the extra lines were not added till c.1890, which is when the garden was reduced to its current length. I would suggest to you that the presence of the railway cutting for the last hundred-and-thirty or so years is a far more likely reason for any very gradual development of instability in no.26's back wall – which must be fairly minor since it does not apparently affect no.28. As you will be aware, some people just dislike trees and will make specious claims to get rid of them.

I would suggest that the lime tree, which is probably self-seeded and does seem rather cramped, could be felled. There is no point whatsoever in felling the apple. As for the mimosa, it could be reduced on top and around by one metre or 1.50 – but certainly no more than that.

Yours truly,

Gillian Tindall,



Conservateur des Arts et Lettres

Copy to Cllr. Jenny Headlam-Wells