

From: Stoddard Martin

Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 10:58 AM

To: Planning

Subject: Application ref:2024/2757/T - objection to proposed cutting and felling of trees in a conservation area

Dear Council Planning Officers and Supporting Communities Directorate, I am resident at 42 Frognaal and have been so since 1997. I write in strong support of Barbara Dohmann Mercer's objection to this tree cutting and felling, sent to you on 14 July. In addition to the points she has made about our environment and its progressive deterioration, I would like to add that we have been informed by neighbours that the basis of their desire for cutting and felling has to do with 1) desire for more sun on the garden, and 2) disinclination to have to rake leaves. We do not regard these as compelling reasons to reduce the tree cover, habitat for owls, songbirds and others, but even if we did accept them, close inspection of the premises, angles of light etc. would suggest that the sun benefit derived would be negligible. As to the raking of leaves - I would be glad to do so if there were a disability issue or some other meritorious reason for the garden residents in question not wishing to do it themselves. For the rest, I cannot do better than copy what Mrs Dohmann Mercer has already written to you:

\* The tenants at Flat 1b at 40 Frognaal do not own the trees. No 40 has multiple tenants who change frequently. In my 55 years of living here the No 40 rear garden has to my knowledge never received any gardening attention and has been virtually unused. Its beauty are the four mature trees which it is now intended to diminish or destroy.

\* The intended reduction to Ts 1, 3, and 4 is excessive - in each case 2-3m laterally and vertically are proposed, plus 10% thinning, little of value will be left.

\* The felling of T2 is wholly unjustified, that tree (a beautiful, healthy Robinia) constitutes no threat to life nor to property and therefore does not meet the criteria for felling a tree in a conservation area.

\* The rear gardens in Frognaal shelter wild life, especially song birds. We have already suffered a very serious reduction in the song bird population. Felling and reducing trees has the obvious effect of reducing habitat.

\* We are seeking to combat climate change and to promote greener living. In that context it is wrong in principle to reduce such tree cover as we still have.

I request you to reject the application.

Yours truly,  
Dr. Stoddard Martin