

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2024/3750/T	Duncan Calam	21/09/2024 13:43:59	PETITNSUP P	<p>I am the long leaseholder of the immediately adjacent house and I write in SUPPORT of the application.</p> <p>The horse chestnut in question is a relatively large and conspicuous specimen. A previous application was rejected, apparently mostly on the grounds that it was so visible. In general I would applaud this approach and my personal inclination would always be to give a tree the “benefit of the doubt” before felling. But I strongly believe that felling this particular tree is the correct thing to do.</p> <p>Park Village East is part of the historic Regents Park estate which was designed as a whole by John Nash with a number of overarching design principles. Over the years the estate has had to defend itself from war damage, industrial and transportation advances, modernist thinking and a well meaning but often flawed and piecemeal approach to development. Despite these pressures, Regents Park retains its unique and much loved character because it continues to exist as a single entity and as far as possible the original design principles remain the basis for good planning decisions.</p> <p>The excellent 2019 Crown Estate Paving Commission paper “Tree Management Strategy” (available on the CEP website) clearly lays out what those principles were with regards to trees and highlights that the current trees do not represent the original design:</p> <p>“very few of Nash’s original trees survive; only some 2% of the Park’s trees, and even fewer in the CEPC estate, appear to date from the early nineteenth century. Most of the existing trees on the CEPC’s estate were planted in the twentieth century, and largely with little understanding of Nash’s original intended effects”</p> <p>Fundamentally, the report makes clear that the concept of “large trees at all costs” is far from the correct approach to tree management in Regents Park. Instead, trees should be commensurate with their surroundings and in harmony with the built environment. “Rare, unusual and especially good examples” should be protected. But the other trees can (and should) be removed if they are not in accordance with Nash’s original vision, or are in conflict with the buildings, or are diseased.</p> <p>The tree in question, which is diseased and is damaging the historic structures falls squarely into this category and so the application to fell it should be supported.</p>