Application ref: 2024/4809/T Contact: Liam Vincent

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Date: 9 December 2024

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London Borough of Camden

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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:

Mecklenburgh Square Gardens Mecklenburgh Square London WC1N 2AB

Description:

IN GARDENS: 1 x London Planes (T2 Tag 492) - Reduce each crown by approx. 3m - 5m in height and spread to create a more compact tree and reduce wind loading. This reduction is part of an on-going management plan of the trees due to the infection of the Massaria.

11 x London Planes (T3 - T13 Tag 494 - 504) - Reduce each crown by approx. 3m - 5m in height and spread to create a more compact tree and reduce wind loading. This reduction is part of an on-going management plan of the trees due to the infection of the Massaria.

4 x London Planes (T14 - T17 Tag 491, 488, 489, 490) - Reduce each crown by approx. 3m - 5m in height and spread to create a more compact tree and reduce wind loading. This reduction is part of an on-going management plan of the trees due to the infection of the Massaria.

The Council has considered your notification of intended works to trees dated 01 November 2024 and decided to **OBJECT** for the following reasons:

Reasons for objection:

1 The intended works are to reduce the crowns of all of the trees indiscriminately by approx. 3m - 5m in height and spread to create a more compact tree and

reduce wind loading as part of an on-going management plan of the trees due to the infection of the tree disease Massaria.

These large (>20m tall) trees are of healthy appearance, with structurally well-developed crowns, and a notable, dominant presence in the local landscape. Growing on all sides of the garden square, their wide-spreading dome shaped crowns are highly visible from Heathcote Street, Mecklenburgh Street, Mecklenburgh Place and Guilford Street.

The proposal of full crown reduction by such a large amount is an inappropriate and unbalanced response for trees with such high visibility and visual amenity value.

- The trees make a positive contribution to the leafy, verdant character of the conservation area, providing a rich natural habitat, softening the visible appearance of the built structures surrounding it, and helping to combat climate change. The proposed reductions will significantly reduce the amenity that the trees provide.
- 3 The proposed reductions of these trees will cause significant harm to the character and appearance of the conservation area and the amenity the trees provide.

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

Daniel Pope

Chief Planning Officer

It is important to us to find out what our customers think about the service we provide. To help us in this respect, we would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to complete our online survey at the following website address: www.camden.gov.uk/dmfeedback. We will use the information you give us to help improve our services.