

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2025/0204/T	Rick Saunders	05/02/2025 19:42:59	OBJ	<p>The presence of this mature tree has always provided a very effective screen between the houses in the alleyway adjoining the Duke of Hamilton and New End & the rear of the houses in Hampstead Square. It adds a degree of privacy and makes the aspect a great deal more pleasant for all. It is a feature entirely in-keeping with its location . We would be very pleased to provide access to the planning officers so that they can witness & assess this for themselves.</p> <p>It should be remembered that the tree predates the current tenants of the pub by many, many years and, if left unutilated, is likely to outlast them for many more.</p> <p>Over the 15 years or so that we have lived here, there have been at least 3 separate sets of tenants and some periods during which the pub has been unoccupied & closed to the public.</p> <p>Throughout all of this time, the tree has flourished.</p> <p>The rear garden was not used for customers until the current tenants took over.</p> <p>The structure (or tarpaulin) which now overreaches the courtyard is a recent addition. It is "temporary". There can be no certainty that the rear courtyard will be used for these purposes in the future. It is entirely conceivable that the tenants fell the tree & are gone in no time, thereafter. Leaving the environment cruelly disfigured, permanently and being in no way invested in it thereafter.</p> <p>The report points to absolutely no risk from this tree &, instead, this application revolves around the theory that one day, on an unforecastable time horizon, it might somehow need to be removed & that the location of the tree means it should be felled now, just in case access is prohibitively difficult if, at some uncertain & future point, it might actually require attention. This is not just specious, it is a dangerously irresponsible pretext.</p> <p>It should be added that some cursory research into Ash dieback reveals that where mature Ash trees are concerned, the Government recommendation has been NOT to fell them but to leave them in situ. Whilst most of these will be in woodland locations & not directly comparable, therefore, it is also true that there is research ongoing into ways to manage this fungus & to provide trees that have been affected with experimental treatments to protect them. Whatever advances are made in the future, in this respect, would obviously be rendered useless in respect of this particular tree if, prior to there being any justification for felling it, it is chopped down. The possibility of it recovering &/or being helped to recover by such means must not be excluded.</p> <p>It should be remarked, too, that the " listed" wall has already been removed (to half of its previous height &, despite its listed status, with no prior approval) & another " temporary" structure, an entirely inappropriate wooden, slatted fence has been erected instead. This might be seen as an indication of the respect that the proprietors have for the preservation of what makes this area characterful and may shed light on their attitude towards sustainability and the environment more broadly.</p> <p>It is probably safe to say that these do not feature prominently on the list of their commercial priorities and, rather than ensure the correct ongoing level of maintenance & husbandry for the tree (which carries with it an ongoing financial obligation) they would rather be rid of it.</p> <p>It is hard to imagine a greater act of vandalism.</p> <p>This is a gratuitous & cynical application & is one to which one would wish to raise the strongest possible objections & , in order to ensure the denial of which, we would be very keen to offer whatever support and help to the council that is necessary. There is an Ash in our own front courtyard, which can be no more than 50 metres from the one in question. It, too, is protected by a tree preservation order. It, too, drops leaves & branches. This is not something that condemns it.</p> <p>We make sure that tree surgeons attend it at appropriate intervals. We see this as a responsibility that we owe to the community, in part and as something very worthwhile in seeking to enhance the well-being of the tree.</p>

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When others seek to act according to different motives, it is important that these are clearly exposed and that the awful and irreversible consequences of these intended interventions are prevented.
