

Delegated Report

Officer

Tom Little

Application Number(s)

2025/0868/T

Application Address16 Belsize Grove
London
NW3 4UN**Proposal(s)**

REAR GARDEN: 1 x Black Poplar (Populus nigra) (T1) - Section fell to near ground level.
1 x Sycamore (Acer psuedoplatanus) - Crown reduce between 2m - 3m from the height and between 1m - 1.5m from the sides.

Recommendation(s):

Part granted part refused

Application Type:

Notification of Intended Works to Tree(s) in a Conservation Area

Consultations**Adjoining Occupiers:**

No. notified

52

No. of responses

21

No. of objections

12

Summary of consultation responses:

The Council received a large number of objections to the notification which area summarised below:

1. This is a rare native species possibly the rarest species native to the UK and needs protecting
2. It is a vital natural asset to the local environment
3. It provides screening between properties and privacy to people in their flats
4. It provides visual amenity and contributes to the character and appearance of the area
5. The tree provides shade in the summer months reducing solar glare
6. It provides a buffer to various types of pollution including noise and traffic pollution
7. It contributes to feelings of calm and wellbeing
8. It helps to cool interiors and reduce solar glare
9. It is a large healthy tree

CAAC/Local groups* comments:

*Please Specify

None

Assessment

The black poplar is situated in the rear garden of 16 Belsize Grove. It is highly visible from a number of surrounding properties and from Primrose Gardens where it can be seen prominently from the street. It is considered to provide a high level of visual amenity. The tree is a rare native species and contributes to the local environment increasing natural diversity and contributing to reduced pollution. The tree provides a degree of shielding between properties. The tree would appear to be in good health.

The notification states the reasons for removing the tree are to eliminate the need for continuous maintenance and the tree becoming an actionable nuisance with the neighbouring properties and the neighbouring wall. At this time the Council has not received any evidence that the tree is becoming an actionable nuisance or causing any damage to the wall or nearby properties or evidence that any damage caused is not repairable without the removal of the tree.

It is recommended that the application is refused.