re: 2013/5837/T 7 Wedderburn Road

I am writing to you to request you refuse this Notice of Intent where it relates to the TPO'ed oak tree.

This important veteran tree was rather drastically reduced by about 30% in 2011 "to remove major dead wood", to the dismay of those who live at 7 Wedderburn Road. This is a lot of reduction for a veteran oak, though the actual work seems to have been well done. Another 10-15% to be removed this year however is not warranted and puts this significant tree at risk.

As you know, while scrupulous hygiene and good practice when lopping diminish the risk to a tree, it is now not recommended that trees be reduced unless really necessary, particularly veteran trees. Also, dead wood does not all require removal; it is important for biodiversity and should only be removed if it poses a significant risk to more frequently present targets below. From observation of this tree, the dead wood present is very small, is not sited over the lawn but in areas that I understand only the gardener himself would go to. It may even have been precipitated by the recent severe lopping, which could have speeded up retrenchment of this veteran tree: one of the hedgerow oak survivors from the times when this area was farmland.

I have spoken to the Freeholder, an elderly and rather infirm man who lives on the premises and employs a gardener. It would seem this (new) gardener has taken it upon himself to employ a tree surgeon to apply for the work on the oak. The freeholder is not aware of this application, says he does not know of the 'Agent' Nick Camm, and while he agrees with the work on the magnolia and the pittosporum, he is against any work on the oak which has already and recently been very severely lopped.

There are also no evidence papers on Camden website about this application, so I can only presume that this is an incomplete application. Please would you only accept applications and Notices of Intent from 7 Wedderburn Road if the Applicant is mentioned.

Please refuse that part of this Notice of Intent that refers to the TPO'ed oak.

With best wishes

15/10/2013