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Comments Form

Name..... PAUL OTHICK
Address..... FLAT 3, 33 HAMPSTEAD HILL GARDENS
Email address..... [REDACTED] NW3
Telephone number..... [REDACTED] (RPJ)
Planning application number..... 2014/4394/P
Planning application address..... 7 x 9 POND ST. NW3.

I support the application (please state reasons below)
I object to the application (please state reasons below)

Your comments

Please see 3 attached sheets
My comments may be considered
under the title: loss of, or
increase in, a particular use of
land. They refer to not only
the considerable reduction in the
environmental quality of the
land, but the way the applicant
has gone about achieving it and
the concerns that we have about
the future. [REDACTED]

Please continue on extra sheets if you wish

5-9-14.

FLATS, 35 HAMPTSTEAD HILL GARDENS NW 8 RPS

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05 SEP 2014

Dear Sally, ^uSITE CLEARANCE

I would like these comments to be taken as an extension of those e-mailed to you by my partner Gleason Engle whose comments on this issue I endorse entirely.

Normally, in a conservation area particularly, substantial and irreversible changes to the environment are likely to take place after a planning application has been granted.

At 7 and 9 Pond St. nearly half of the destruction of the environment has taken place before the application has been considered. The loss of 4 trees and the smashing down of about 7 metres of cultivated border has been an underhand way of degrading the quality of the site so as to make the imposition of the applicants miserable office building appear to be less of an act of vandalism than it is.

Of course, the site had already been degraded by earlier entrepreneurs cashing-in on the Hamptstead environment at considerable cost to the current inhabitants endeavouring to maintain it.

Originally both gardens were all grass + small trees with bits of border planted out here x there. By 2006 one was substantially paved and the other almost entirely decking.

A day or two before the current applicants made known their intentions concerning the three keylandia trees in the garden a silver birch tree in the garden of No. 7 disappeared without trace. It was only about 4 metres high, but well placed and a main feature of the photographic posters displayed to the street by the corner of the last of the restaurants at No. 7.

The keylandia were felled "to improve the light" available to projected light ducts/ceiling windows/whatever in the back area (the gardens) of No. 7+9. These never appeared on any plan by the applicants and the whole scheme was bogus anyway as the path of the sun and the position of the keylandia trees make a nonsense of such a justification.

Two of the keylandia were quite small and close to our fence (between us and the garden of number 9) but one was about 11 metres high and grew up through the branches of the only remaining tree (now) a large Ash tree - a major feature of the gardens of 7+9 Pond St. and ours, as there is actually more of it over our area and we're very glad of that.

The conjunction of these two trees was not only very unusual, but greatly

appreciated by birds, the smaller ones able to find cover from larger ones (jays, magpies, crows) all year round & also weather protection.

Now that these heylandia are gone we have virtually no birds and a greatly increased amount of windows, housepipes, metal flues and junk to view. So interesting.

Of course, it could get worse. The applicants mention somewhere that their little building might damage the roots of the Ash tree. They imply that they can't help that, and well!... That's life!

Interesting that one of their "justifications" for felling the heylandia was that it would improve life for the Ash tree.

Somewhere else they mention that the Ash tree is not important because it can't be seen from the street. Do we have trees in our environment only when they might be viewed from the street? And, just for the record the tree is clearly in view and significant in its contribution to that view for 100 Metres of walking along Hampstead Hill Gdns and crossing Pond St.

I'm beginning to wonder what a conservation area is when it's so easy for the things worth conserving to disappear. There's much more I could go into, but I'm sure you get the idea.

Yours S. [redacted]