The Society examines all Planning Applications relating to Hampstead, and assesses them for their impact on conservation and on the local environment.

To London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team

Planning Ref: 2015/1252/L

Address: 23 Frognal Lane, NW3

Description: Boundary wall reconstruction.

Case Officer: Eleanor Lakew Date 29 April 2015

The need to repair or reconstruct this boundary wall is evident, and the brickwork and foundations for this are unobjectionable.

We are concerned, however, over the proposal to remove, and not replace, the trees immediately behind the wall. These are described as Chinese privets, and are blamed for the damage to the brickwork; this is standard practice in any case of ground movement leading to damage: it is always the trees at fault.

We are not convinced in this instance; it is possible that repairs could be done separating the tree roots from the brickwork, allowing movement to take place. We call for a second opinion on this, and have asked our Tree Officer to look at the problem.

We also are very unhappy that no tree replacement is proposed; this is perfectly feasible, whether by Chinese privets or other species.

In the absence of further opinion, we call for refusal.