

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 June 2015 14:18  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Objection to the felling of 1 Leyland Cypress Tree in conservation area and Tree Preservation Order TPO request to Local Planning Authority for 1 Leyland Cypress tree / Your ref: 2015/3215/T

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your notification letter dated 29 May 2015, your Ref: 2015/3215/T. This email is for the attention of the Planning and Public Protection department, the Tree Preservation Team and Local Planning Authority about the intended felling of trees in our Conservation Area.

The notification letter proposed the felling of a beautiful and irreplaceable Leyland Cypress tree in our conservation area.

Being one of the residents of Walham Court with a direct view of the conservation area I am categorically and vehemently against the proposed felling to ground level of the Leyland Cypress tree.

I would like to apply for a Tree Preservation Order TPO to the Local Planning Authority for this beautiful, rare tree based upon the following reasons:

The tree can be seen by the residents of Walham Court and the Antrim Road buildings and is even visible to the general public from Antrim Road street level.

The Leyland Cypress tree is very important in terms of its size, form, elegance, evergreen nature, rarity and beauty.

The tree provides much needed screening value and privacy between residents of Walham Court and residents of Antrim road, particularly in winter time, who would otherwise have to stare at each other's brick walls and windows without the presence of this precious evergreen tree. Most of the other trees in the conservation area are deciduous and totally lose their foliage in winter greatly reducing privacy screening levels between residents of these two large buildings that directly face each other ( Walham Court and Antrim Road ).

Furthermore, this tree greatly contributes to the character, appearance and beauty of the conservation area. Leyland Cypress trees are particularly rare in Belsize Park. It is beautiful and much appreciated by local residents and visitors alike.

To quote from the Evening Standard article of 8th June, 2015 on London's deteriorating air quality, this is now one of the most polluted cities in Europe. Trees help form part of the lungs of our city. Surely we should be protecting them and not threatening to fell them to the ground.

How can we possibly contemplate felling a rare and beautiful leyland Cypress tree that helps purify the air we breathe in our heavily polluted capital city ? Instead of felling trees we need to plant far more trees. Plants can cut street level nitrogen dioxide by up to 40 per cent. They are also vital in absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>. Despite reductions in levels of major pollutants in London's air the level of air pollution in London remains well in excess of EU maximums.

The Leyland Cypress with its year round evergreen foliage helps attract several beautiful species of birds including wood pigeons, woodpeckers, jays, sparrows, tits, robins, magpies, rare wild green parrots and occasionally even owls.

This tree helps provide to people of all ages, from children right up to retired folk, a pleasant, green environment to play, socialise and relax in. The natural shelter and evergreen beauty that it offers greatly contributes to our conservation area, helping provide a respite from urban life and the endless concrete expansion of the metropolis.

For some of us who love and respect nature, felling this Leyland Cypress tree to the ground would be paramount to vandalism, a mutilation of the environment and a total show of disregard to mother nature.

This tree has been in the conservation area for over thirty five years and it is incomprehensible why someone would want to suddenly fell them to the ground. We are used to its beauty and presence and it forms part of our daily lives.

Clearly, this tree that we look at and admire every day is very significant to the local surroundings, has a very positive impact on the environment and forms part of the natural lay of the land which should not be altered.

This tree and all other trees in our conservation area could be at risk in future from property developers who might one day decide to cut them down in order to erect a construction in our precious conservation area.

I and many other residents of Walham Court and the community would be grateful if you could please take all of these important points into consideration, prevent the felling of this precious, rare and beautiful tree and issue a Tree Preservation Order to protect it from the present felling request and as a precautionary measure against any future felling requests.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Patrick Couris

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Patrick Couris.