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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2015 14:29
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to the felling of 3 Cedar Trees and 2 Sycamore Trees in Walham Court conservation area and Tree Preservation Order TPO request to Local Planning Authority for 3 Cedar trees and 2 Sycamore trees / Your ref: 2015/3213/T

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your notification letter dated 8 June 2015, your Ref: 2015/3213/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 three beautiful and irreplaceable cedar trees and two lovely sycamore trees in the rear garden of Walham Court, 109-111 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4SD.

Being one of the residents of Walham Court with a direct view of the rear garden conservation area I am categorically and vehemently against the proposed felling to ground level of three cedar trees and two sycamore trees.

I would like to apply for a Tree Preservation Order TPO to the Local Planning Authority for each of these beautiful, rare trees based upon the following reasons:

The trees can be seen by the residents of Walham Court and the Antrim Road buildings and the cedar trees are even visible to the general public from Antrim Road street level when looking in the direction of Walham Court conservation area.

The cedar trees and sycamore trees are very important in terms of their size, form, elegance, evergreen nature and rarity and the sycamore tree is also very beautiful.

The three cedar trees provide 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 these precious evergreen trees. All 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, these three cedar trees and two sycamore trees greatly contribute to the character, appearance and beauty of the conservation area. Cedars are particularly rare in Belsize Park and sycamores are not very common. They are all 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 CO₂. 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 three cedar trees with their year round evergreen foliage help attract several beautiful species of birds including wood pigeons, woodpeckers, jays, sparrows, tits, robins, magpies, rare wild green parrots and occasionally even owls.

These beautiful cedar and sycamore trees help 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 these cedar trees offer 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 these cedar and sycamore trees to the ground would be paramount to vandalism, a mutilation of the environment and a total show of disregard to mother nature.

These trees have 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 their beauty and presence and they form part of our daily lives.

Clearly, these trees that we look at and admire every day are very significant to their local surroundings, have a very positive impact on the environment and are part of the natural lay of the land which should not be altered.

These trees 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 would be grateful if you could please take all of these important points into consideration, prevent the felling of these precious, rare and beautiful trees and issue Tree Preservation Orders to protect all of them 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

