

15 Sherlock Road
London
NW3 2HR



29th May 2015

The Tree Preservation Officer
(Ref C1137 2015)
Environmental Services
London Borough of Camden
Old Town Hall
Judd Street
London
WC1H 8EQ

Your ref: 1781.125

Dear Sir,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012
Tree Preservation Order Number: C1137 2015
Land in the front garden (*corrected from "rear"*) of 13 Sherlock Road London NW3 2HR

We are writing in connection with your request for Objections/Representations in respect of the above Tree Preservation Order required by 1st June 2015.

1. Council has deemed there is no evidence that the subsidence suffered by 11 Sherlock Road has anything to do with the Strawberry Tree subject to the above Tree Preservation Order. Further Council has conveniently not mentioned the simultaneous and even worse subsidence effect suffered by 13 Sherlock Road. If the roots of the Strawberry Tree continue to "possibly" cause subsidence problems for Nos. 11 and 13 and these problems eventually extend to No.15, then we will hold the Council fully responsible for the resultant damage in all respects, including loss of value and increased insurance premiums.
2. We are informed that the roots of this Strawberry Tree are particularly virulent. We have a slight defence mechanism at No. 15 in that the roots will have to find their way under or through our main drainage system exiting from No 15 to Sherlock Road. Again we will place the Council on notice that should the roots of the Strawberry Tree interfere in any respect with our main drain we will hold the Council fully responsible for the resultant damage in all respects.

3. The Strawberry Tree is, as I am sure the Council is fully aware, an autumn-flowering and fruiting tree. It has a "bobbly spherical bright red fruit" which appears in quantity in October. Over 40% of the Strawberry Tree subject to the Tree Preservation Order above hangs over the Shirlock Road pavement. When the fruit falls from the Strawberry Tree the pavement turns into a very dangerous and slippery surface. We do not even walk on it but use the road to circumvent the ice-rink. If the Tree Preservation Order is taking effect on a permanent basis then the Council should be placed on notice that unless the pavement is cleaned on a very regular basis when the fruit is falling, it must be held responsible for any accidents to individuals on the pavement surface under the said Strawberry Tree. At the very least the Council should install a warning notice outside No.13 Shirlock Road.
4. No.13 Shirlock Road seems to have an excellent and "somewhat special" relationship with the Council in respect of Tree Preservation Orders. The 13 Shirlock Road inhabitants seem to think that their garden is so special, everybody else's around it should suffer as a result of their ability to extract Tree Preservation Orders with ease from the Council. We suffer from a "bog standard silver birch" situated in the land to the rear of 13 Shirlock Road; this tree, as I am sure you are aware, is also subject to Tree Preservation Order. This is now 40-50 foot high and excludes all light from our garden. It is not looked after or cut-back at all but allowed to grow rampantly. It has a diameter of almost 2 feet at the base and is within a few inches of our party wall; it has now caused the party wall to move and lean very dramatically into our garden; it will collapse within a few months and will have to be rebuilt to await further destruction, courtesy of the Tree Preservation Order, from the ever-growing bog standard silver birch. We raise this point in that one would think that one Tree Preservation Order is quite adequate for a Shirlock Road property but two for the same property is really totally out of proportion.

These are our Objections/Representations. I really hesitated to even consider writing this letter as based on our experience, when we objected to the Tree Preservation Order already in place in respect of the silver birch at the rear of No 13, nobody takes any notice whatsoever of any objection whether valid or otherwise.

Yours faithfully



William P Godfrey

Sarah Radclyffe

Owners & Occupiers of 15 Shirlock Road, London NW3 2HR