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Dear Fast Track and Validation Team

Your reference 2015/5446/T

Application for works to Tree(s) covered by a TREE PROTECTION ORDER at 26
Akenside Court Belsize Crescent NW3 5QT

Belsize Park is a very green and leafy area - we love our trees and our neighborhood. The trees need our protection otherwise the area will eventually be like Covent Garden - covered with concrete.

The trees at the back of Akenside Court are a real feature of the area - and a haven for birds and wildlife, so I am very concerned about the application to severely prune and fell them, especially as I believe they are PROTECTED trees.

There are 2 Chestnut trees at the back of the property - and I would like to see more details about the health of the one that is allegedly beyond saving, before agreeing to a fell. Of course I am also concerned to protect second horse chestnut tree, and not have it be felled in the frenzy.

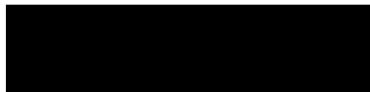
Also I see no proposal about replanting, which I believe is required. I am very concerned about this.

After concerted pressure from neighbors, the residents of Akenside Court did replant at the front where they had removed trees, but only very small saplings were planted. So I am not convinced that they can be relied upon to plant a decent sized tree at the back, should the horse chestnut have to be felled. Surely this should be a requirement?

I fear that the sycamore tree pruning will also be too severe. I know and understand that tree management is required, but experience has also shown me that many people overdo the pruning and felling. What reassurance do we have that the proposed pruning to the sycamores will only be reduction back to previous points of reduction? And what are those points? I feel we need more detail and more clarity.

I strongly object to this proposed work.

Best Wishes



Gareth Jones.
October 14, 2015