

Dear Bell,

I am writing to **object** to the proposal to fell the Ash tree at Grove End Lodge, reference 2015/6850/T. I have tried to make my objection through the website, but the link for comments does not appear to be there.

I live nearby, at Grove Terrace.

The Ash is a magnificent specimen and can be seen widely from the footway at College Lane.

I understand that it is protected by a TPO.

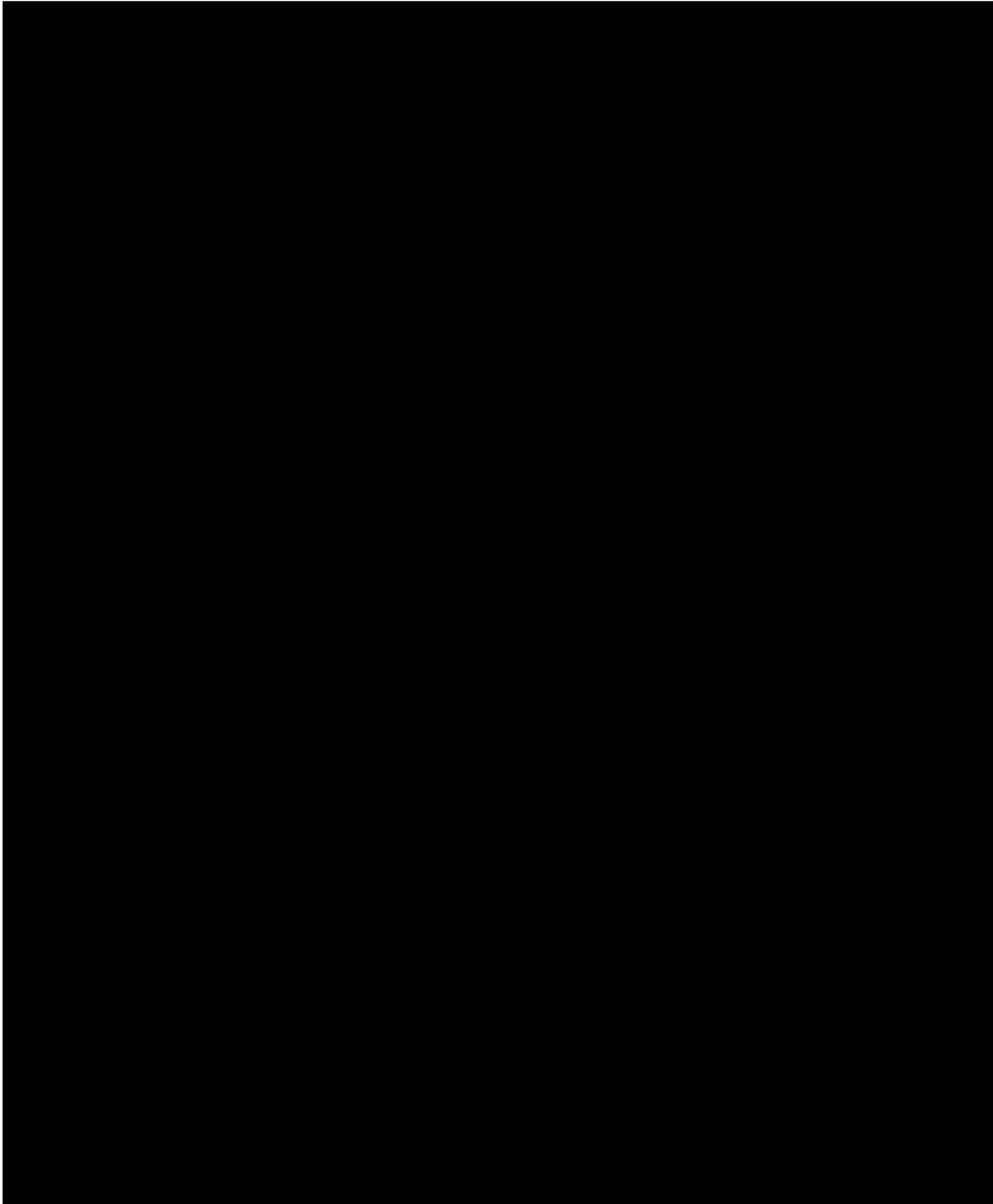
I have looked at the tree surgeon's report on the website. It does **not** recommend that the tree be felled. It suggests **only** that the tree be inspected every six months.

I have also looked at the proposals on the website for the rebuilding of the wall between Grove End Lodge and Denyer House. These also do **not** require that the tree be felled. They show that the wall can be rebuilt in a way which protects the tree, with arches and carefully placed brickwork.

It seems to me that therefore it would be absolutely wrong to fell any tree – but particularly such a magnificent one – when (i) it is protected by a TPO, (ii) it is in a conservation area, (iii) it provides considerable benefit to the public realm and (iv) no-one, absolutely no-one at all, is saying that there is any need to fell it.

Best regards,

Chris Harrison



Dear Sirs,

Having returned to London following a seasonal break out of town and a welcome escape from the internet, I have been urgently asked by several neighbours for my comment on the applications for the treatment of the mature Ash tree and of the adjacent boundary wall to Denyer house.

From the two, uncoordinated, applications, it is difficult to ascertain the actual land owner of the land containing the tree. Please liaise with each other and clarify.

The tree is protected by a TPO which in itself is a strong guide to a possible solution, requiring our best endeavours to protect not just the wellbeing of the tree itself but also the role it has in its environment within the Dartmouth Park Conservation Area.

The thinning of the crown is the correct response to the urban environment as the dappled shading is less brutal than that cast by the surrounding buildings.

Both the TPO and the Conservation Area aims and objectives collectively rule out its removal. That is the starting point, therefore any discussion referring to potential cost savings from its removal is, a spurious, and enormously time wasting detraction from the search for an equitable outcome.

Solutions, beyond those already proposed, are available. For instance, consider a different boundary wall material/construction adjacent to the tree - there are many alternatives; there are also several methods of guying a tree to provide additional stability if required.

The tree was already mature when most of the current residents in the surrounding area moved in and, as the only substantial natural feature in the immediate urban vicinity, may well have had a small, almost unconscious but positive contribution in their decision. It would surely be unusual to question the continuing presence of a mature tree, especially one which, by a combination of its presence and isolation, contributes beneficially to this hard corner of the conservation area, in a manner paralleling closely the attitudes of those who strive to maintain and enhance our environment.

However, I must add that I have also been extremely concerned on views openly expressed from experience that any application by the Council will not be rejected.

The Localism Act now demands that the view of the people be respected.

There is much work to be done by the professionals already involved, to save this tree, and you should direct your comments to these applications accordingly.

Jim Beggs RIBA
Street Representative
Little Green Street

Past Chair, DPCAAC.