

Application No: 2016/1142/T

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Comment:

Response: Bedford Estates claim that this tree is unhealthy and needs to be felled. They say that it suffers with excessive de-barking and is affected by fungus. I have observed the tree throughout all seasons for years. It is a London plane and de-barks naturally, but not excessively, and I can detect no fungus save for a very small area at the base. If there is a problem with the tree, I am sure it can be remedied by pollarding rather than the drastic measure of felling it.

There is a plane tree in the adjoining garden at number 35. I suspect that both trees were planted at the same time. There appears to be no difference between the two. I am unclear why Bedford Estate take the view that the tree at number 37 needs to be removed, whether the commercial tenants complain of reduced light when the tree is in leaf, or whether it is simply inconvenient, or what, but I can see no good reason for felling what appears to be a healthy and beautiful tree.

May I also raise a word of warning. Bedford Estate have already engaged a firm of tree surgeons and obtained a price for the proposed work. If Bedford Estate produce an expert report to assist them with their application, a report from the same or an affiliated firm would clearly not be an independent report.

[Redacted]