

**Joyce Glasser**  
**14D Savernake Road, London NW3 2JP**

Camden Regeneration and Planning  
London Borough of Camden  
Town Hall, Judd Street  
London WC1H 9JE  
Attn Mr Nick Bell - via email

21 September 2016

Dear Mr Bell

**RE: 2016/4738/T – Planning Application Flat A 14 Savernake Road**

Further to my earlier comments on the above-cited application to destroy a healthy, mature Bay tree from the garden of 14A of this address, I would like to submit the following press release I just received for a new film being released on Friday, *Dare to be Wild*.

The film's real life protagonist calls for everyone who is fortunate enough to have a garden (and there are fewer and fewer every year due to our population explosion) to plant a tree in it to save the environment. How ironic that we are here dealing with people striving to uproot and kill one already planted, and how distressing that Councils are all but prevented from stopping it in the Town and Country Planning Act due to our counter-productive obsession with short sighted and short-term gain.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Glasser

**UK, LONDON: Wednesday 21st September 2016** - Inspiring environmentalist film director **Vivienne DeCourcy**, and Chelsea Flower Show gold medalist **Mary Reynolds** (the central protagonist of Vivienne's new film **DARE TO BE WILD**), have partnered with **The Woodland Trust** and are today announcing a call to action for everyone to plant one tree in their garden this **Autumn/Winter to help reverse climate change**. **DARE TO BE WILD** celebrates its UK Premiere tonight at London's **Notting Hill Gate Cinema** and will be released in cinemas across the UK and Ireland from this **Friday 23 September**.

After experiencing family tragedy, former US corporate finance attorney Vivienne gave up her law practice with the primary goal to raise awareness for the wilderness through her directorial debut. Now, with the protagonist of her first feature film, Mary Reynolds, she is supporting the **UK's Tree Charter** (which is championed by **The Woodland Trust**) and hoping to raise awareness of the difference that people can make to climate change, simply by planting one tree in their garden.

**Director of DARE TO BE WILD Vivienne DeCourcy** explains: *"Evidence has shown that planting trees could help to slow or reverse climate change. Right now humans are producing carbon dioxide faster than the environment can absorb it, which could be catastrophic for the whole world. This is not helped by the mass deforestation in some countries – the devastating effect of which is highlighted in the desertification of places like Ethiopia, a plight which is highlighted in Dare To Be Wild through Mary's real life experience of supporting reforestation in the country. By simply planting a tree in your garden to absorb carbon dioxide, we can fight against one of the greatest threats to this world and protect our environment for future generations."*

In cinemas from Friday, **DARE TO BE WILD** is a romantic adventure story about the landscape designer **Mary Reynolds**, who believes we can preserve and re-generate wild nature – and in so doing – save ourselves. The film tells the inspirational true story of Mary Reynolds' very quick rise from rank outsider to winner of a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2002. She believes that if we experience the atmosphere of wild nature in our own back yard we will be more likely to protect the wilderness.

Chelsea Flower Show gold medalist, **Mary Reynolds** said:

*"Hawthorns are sentinel trees. They grow very quickly in their initial years and their thorny stems are designed to protect the more delicate growth of larger parent trees such as oak or ash from wind and grazing damage. Hawthorns are one of nature's guards, or protectors. They retain a strong energy of a warrior, the warrior spirit of nature. We need that energy to rise up in all of us now. We need to become nature's guardians, her sentinels, as those in power are not playing their part. Embrace the spirit of the hawthorn and become a sentinel in nature's army. Plant trees, it is one of the most gentle and powerful things you can do. Specifically plant locally sourced native trees to provide future sanctuaries for all the creatures that live above and below the soil."*

**Matt Larsen-Daw** of **The Woodland Trust** explains how this film highlights the deep-rooted connection that people have for the natural wonders around them:

*"It is no exaggeration to say that we are at a crisis point for the UK's trees and woods - a perfect storm of threats, changing lifestyles and apathy. Trees and woods improve life for people in so many ways, and yet their true value is rarely recognised. As a result, they are disappearing from our lives and landscapes due to man-made and natural threats, and a lack of commitment to planting new trees and woods for the future. Beneath the surface, however, I believe there is a deep-rooted love of trees and woods that just needs to be re-awakened and made visible. That's why the Woodland Trust is leading more than 50 organisations in calling for a Charter for Trees, Woods and People to bring trees to the centre of decision-making and public consciousness where they belong."*

*"We hope that audiences will go and see Dare To Be Wild at the cinema. This beautiful film illustrates the transformative power of nature on an individual, and I am sure will cause many people to reflect on their own connection to the trees and other natural wonders around them. The aim of the Tree Charter campaign is to get people talking about how trees touch their lives. We are delighted that Vivienne DeCourcy and Mary Reynolds are supporting us in doing this."*

Vivienne and Mary are asking people to share pictures of their newly planted trees on their own social media sites with the hashtag #DTBW

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Dear Mr Bell,

I was surprised to learn that the Town & Country Planning Act does not require those who wish to fell precious trees to provide a reason for their actions. Real trees are so desirable to counter the negative effects of our concrete-jungles that I cannot imagine anyone, especially anyone with children, wishing to destroy one. If the owners of the garden containing the tree do not value it, it seems unjust that the neighbours who might value it are denied any legal grounds on which to protest.

1. The tree destined for destruction is **a tall, healthy, mature bay tree (*Laurus Nobilis*)**. This tree has been treasured by people for millennia for its culinary uses, its beauty, and its representation of wisdom and victory.
2. The tree blends in with the trees on Hampstead Heath to form a green lung around the Heath that makes this part of Camden such a desirable place to live in. When I asked the Applicants why they moved here when they knew the flat they recently purchased was too small for them and they would concreting over their garden to extend it, they said because it was 'a green, leafy' part of London. And now they want to destroy a tree that provided some of that green leafy outlook for them and all of us.
3. The tree is directly opposite the windows of flat B and serves as a screen between them and the hideous sub-station opposite that Network Rail refuses to demolish despite it being redundant. The tree acts as a natural buffer when the trains pass.
4. Not that this is relevant to a planning protest, but I enjoy looking out at the tree, which is the second highest tree in the row of rear gardens that thousands of people a week enjoy when they use the bridge/ramp access to the Heath from Savernake Road. It is also visible to passengers on the North London Line and adds to the green feel of the area.
5. Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to the area's wildlife.

6. Not only are trees essential for life, but as the longest living species on earth, they give us a link between the past, present and future. It's critical that woodlands, rainforests and trees in urban settings are preserved.
7. **Trees benefit health:** The canopies of trees act as a physical filter, trapping dust and absorbing pollutants from the air - removing up to 1.7 kilos per tree annually. They also provide shade from solar radiation and reduce noise. Research shows that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space, your blood pressure will drop, your heart rate will slow and your stress levels will come down.
8. **Trees benefit the environment:** Trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and the carbon that they store in their wood helps slow the rate of global warming. They reduce wind speeds and cool the air as they lose moisture and reflect heat upwards from their leaves. It is estimated that trees can reduce the temperature in a city by up to 7°C. Trees also help prevent flooding and soil erosion, absorbing thousands of litres of stormwater.
9. **Trees boost wildlife:** Trees host complex microenvironments. When younger, they offer habitation and food to amazing communities of birds, insects, lichen and fungi. When ancient, they also provide the hollow cover needed by species such as bats, woodboring beetles, tawny owls and woodpeckers. One mature oak can be home to as many as 500 different species.
10. **Trees strengthen communities:** Trees strengthen the distinctive character of a place and encourage local pride. Trees are also invaluable for children to play in and discover their sense of adventure.
11. **Trees grow the economy:** People are attracted to live, work and invest in green surroundings. Research shows that average house prices are between 5%-18% higher where properties are close to mature trees and companies benefit from a healthier, happier workforce if there are parks and trees nearby.

The number of people with homes in cities is currently outstripping those living in the countryside - so parks and trees in private gardens will become an even more vital component of urban life. We must all respect them and protect them for the future.

Yours faithfully,

Joyce Glasser