**Location:** Front garden 100, Haverstock Hill, NW3 2BD

**The Tree** Lime tree no 1 on plan.

Reasons why we seek permission to fell the tree:

# The structural necessity to rebuild steps needed to access the main house.

# The work need to replace the existing broken steps is a “necessity” not just a cosmetic “nice”. Our builder (Des Clake, well known to your department) has confirmed he will not replace the steps and retaining wall as they are too close to the tree and it is not safe work to undertake. The existing steps are unsafe and have to be replaced in the near future as they are badly broken. The retaining wall has recently become unstable so the tree must be moving.

Even if Mr. Clarke did attempt to rebuild the steps and he built a retaining wall he is concerned that the tree will be damaged permanently. He feels he is unable to give the tree the protection it will need.

**Neighbourhood concerns.**

I am often stopped in the street by concerned passer-by’s who feel unsafe walking past. I am called “irresponsible” for not sorting the tree out.

The post office will not deliver our post as they will not walk past the tree. We collect our post from next door, (this is not convenient for any of us).

**The tree as a local amenity:**

We have three other large trees in the front garden. We are already doing our best for local ambience, noise and air pollution.

The tree is very straggly. There are lots of dead branches on the tree and it generally looks unhealthy. A large section of bark has fallen off the trunk.

The leaves on the tree are fresh green only for the first weeks of spring, before the aphid infestations take hold, when it begins to drop sticky honey-dew that attracts all the filth that hovers in the London air. Within weeks the leaves turn black, and long before the nights drew in, they fall, plastering the garden and paths with poisonous mulch. My family slip over when the weather is wet.

Interesting when the tree is in leaf the leaves are half the size of the lime tree a few feet away which is of a similar age and height.

There is no TPO on the tree we want fell. There are PTO’s on two of the other trees which are in better shape and not growing at a dangerous angle.

**General comment:**

We appreciate trees touch every aspect of our lives, our homes, our work, our journey to work, our recreational space. As such, and in terms of the benefits they bring to the Belsize Park community, all trees deserve time and effort in helping them to remain in gardens. Sadly I hope you agree this tree proves an expectation to the rule.

We are happy to plant a new tree (species of your choice) in the front garden situation in a better location.