

<b>Application No:</b>	<b>Consultees Name:</b>	<b>Consultees Addr:</b>	<b>Received:</b>	<b>Comment:</b>	<b>Response:</b>
2017/0509/T	Dr Sheila Macrae	37 West Hill Court, Millfield Lane London N6 6JJ	19/02/2017 16:32:28	NOBJ	<p>This beech tree has been a central feature of our garden for many years. But it is some 120 years old now and showing evident signs of decline - as seen in the photos of the diminishing leaf cover taken in Nov 2015 and Nov 2016. The consultant expert arbori-culturalist has stated that the tree will almost certainly continue to decline and wind-throw is a possibility (i.e. the whole tree may come down in a storm). He states that "the time has come to remove the tree and plant a replacement. To do otherwise is to put off the inevitable and subject residents to an unnecessary risk." He advises this course of action whether or not further root investigations are carried out.</p> <p>The tree may indeed still have some limited aesthetic value. However, with the protective safety fence around the footprint of its canopy, it no longer has amenity value as the area underneath it is inaccessible and so cannot be used, as previously, for garden parties or for seating in the shade or as a play area.</p> <p>As one of the Directors of Spiraline, the company owning the freehold of WHC, I have a duty of care to fellow lessees and tenants and will also be held legally liable if someone is injured or killed by a branch or the whole tree falling. It would be irresponsible of the Directors to ignore the advice of the expert. Sadly, we cannot be sentimental on an issue of health and safety. I therefore support the felling of the tree. Thereafter, tree(s) can be planted in the space opened up.</p>

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2017/0509/T	Bob Wellburn	38 West Hill Court Millfield Lane London N6 6JJ	20/02/2017 18:05:15	SUPPRT	<p>This beech tree has been regularly monitored by arboricultural consultants for over a decade and found to have progressively declined during that time.</p> <p>The latest report from S J Stephens, in November 2016, found that it had deteriorated significantly in the last year or two and its vigour is most unlikely to improve whatever we do. He also cites the possibility of wind-throw, caused by root decay, bringing down the whole tree, as well as the previously-noted risk of it dropping dead branches.</p> <p>That being so, I personally consider that we should take his advice to remove the tree now and plant a replacement, As he says, to do otherwise would be to put off the inevitable and subject residents and visitors to unnecessary risk.</p> <p>An earlier comment in this consultation, requests that a root inspection be carried out, before any decision is taken to fell, to establish whether the root system is in fact compromised by Honey Fungus.</p> <p>However, S J Stephens' recommendation that we should fell the tree was based on the evidence already available. He did not actually say that we should get a further root investigation before making a final decision and felling application to the Council.</p> <p>What he did say was that should we decide to retain the tree, he recommended a further root investigation to ensure that there is no evidence of significant decay of major roots, which would necessitate immediate felling.</p> <p>If we undertook this investigation and it did not show such decay, it would not negate his advice to fell, which was based on his past and current observations of the tree's condition and decline. We have previously been advised that it is particularly difficult to find the necessary evidence in the roots themselves.</p> <p>Bob Wellburn 38 West Hill Court Lessee and Management Committee Member</p>

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2017/0509/T	Caradoc King	11 West Hill Court Millfield Lane London N6 6JJ	15/02/2017 20:11:49	OBJ	<p>As residents at West Hill Court for fifteen years and members of the Beech Tree sub-committee liaising with the Spiraline Board we object to this application to fell the tree for these reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The health and future of the beech tree has been subject to different opinions and reports since it was first fenced off by the Board in 2013 and an application was made to fell, swiftly rejected by Camden after inspection. The latest report from Simon Stephens comes a year after his previous report saying the tree could well survive for another 20 years and commending Spiraline's attention to it. Although there is evidence that the tree may have deteriorated in the last year this does not confirm that this is radical deterioration and in that period despite high winds and storms there has been no branch fall or injury to the tree, as during the previous three years when the tree was first fenced off and preserved under Camden's current PTO. We understand that in due course the tree's deterioration may lead to it being felled but we would want that to be the conclusion of a full root inspection and a further inspection by Camden to confirm the serious deterioration of its condition.</li> <li>2) The Beech Tree is the most striking and beautiful of all the trees in the West Hill Court gardens and is deeply valued by many of the residents.</li> <li>3) After three years of inactivity since the beech tree was cordoned off the WHC beech-tree sub-committee have worked closely with the Spiraline board during the nine months presenting various plans for re-landscaping and safeguarding the area round the beech tree and would like to put its plans into effect before the summer. Two thirds of the current Spiraline board have either just retired or are about to and we feel because it is so important that the decision about the tree which led to the current application should be made by a newly constituted board, although of course it will be Camden that make decision..</li> </ol>
2017/0509/T	Muriel Mitcheson	16 West Hill Court	16/02/2017 10:09:50	COMMNT	<p>While I accept that the beech tree is dying it seems to me that it has a good many years left. Its loss would be significant and its removal would radically alter the garden. A tree of that size cannot be replaced and if, as suggested, there is a fungal infection in the soil it would be unwise to attempt to plant another tree in the immediate area. There is a risk with all ancient trees of some dropping of branches and of their being blown over, but the beech tree is in a fairly sheltered spot and continued robust fencing should ensure that people do not walk or play underneath. It is a question of risk but it may be a risk worth taking so that the amenity value of the tree may be enjoyed for more years.</p>
2017/0509/T	Jonathan Sattin	26 West Hill Court Millfield Lane N6 6JJ	17/02/2017 08:46:22	OBJ	<p>I would oppose this application as this is an historic tree that further research is required of the roots as to whether it really needs to be removed. There have been previous moves to try and remove the tree without pursuing all possible ways to preserve it.</p> <p>Please refuse the application.</p>