

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2017/1990/T	Michael O'Neill	Flat J 14 St Albans Road	25/04/2017 13:11:43	SUPNOT	<p>As a resident and gardener in 12/14 St Albans Road, I strongly support this application to remove the elder tree which comes out of the ground less than one metre from the garden shed in our back garden.</p> <p>Until about 8 years ago, this garden was a weed and rock filled eyesore and health hazard. It was at this time that this elder tree self seeded from the larger one nearby. Since then, in a concerted effort from several gardeners here the garden has become the pleasant lawned space with many trees and shrubs, sitting areas and the nice wooden shed. The garden is shared among the tenants of eleven Circle Housing Association flats. Such a situation can often make such developments difficult but we have achieved it working in unison, without conflict. Generally, we support trees whenever possible. However, this one elder is growing very fast. Indeed, just a year ago its largest branch was less than 75mm at 1.5m height which I understand means that it was too small to require council permission to remove. Its rapid growth means that very soon it will undermine the shed. This is obvious if you look at its parent tree which is nearby. Last year when it became obvious that it may be necessary to remove the tree to protect the shed, some of the gardeners decided to plant another tree nearby as a replacement. This is a fast growing plum tree already over 2.2 metres tall. Soon afterwards another resident gardener bought an apple tree which was also planted nearby and a magnolia is soon to be planted. These have rootstocks that mean they will be big but manageable. So we have already planted two manageable replacement trees in anticipation of having to lose this elder. The other problem with this unplanned "weed" tree is that it is impeding the growth of planned trees like the ornamental evergreen which is next to it. I hope that the Council and our neighbours will appreciate the transformation of our garden that the gardeners' efforts have achieved here and will support us in allowing this application.</p>

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