

## **Dawson (development), Barry**

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**From:** Bloomsbury Association <bloomsbury@me.com>  
**Sent:** 01 May 2017 19:27  
**To:** DC Mail  
**Cc:** Remmington, James; BCAAC@hughcullum.com; Bloomsbury Association  
**Subject:** APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO A TREE PROTECTED BY A TPO 2017/1939/T

### **BEDFORD SQUARE GARDENS, LONDON WC1B 3HH**

PROPOSAL: Holly tree - Fell & leave stump

Application for works to tree covered by a TPO: 2017/1939/T

The Bloomsbury Association objects to this application in its current form.

The trees in Bedford Square are of high visual amenity value in a sensitive, historic setting. All are protected by TPOs. We are concerned at both the loss of amenity and also the impact on the historic setting of what is London's only intact Georgian square. We are particularly concerned that the application is lacking any replacement strategy for the loss of the tree.

We understand that the intention is not to remove the tree but to 'fell' to around the height of the railings and allow the tree to re-grow from this more manageable and safe condition. We would support such a strategy but it is not expressly described in the proposal.

While accepting that the tree may pose a risk, no works should nevertheless take place until a visual impact assessment has been carried out on the proposal and submitted to the Council for approval.

Other than for reasons of public safety, no works should also take place until the Bedford Estate has consulted with the Council and other stakeholders such as the Georgian Group, the Historic Gardens Foundation, the Garden History Society, the London Parks and Gardens Trust and the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee and obtained planning permission for a long-term plan for the management and eventual replacement of all the trees in the Square. The trees are all over-mature and will probably all require replacement in our lifetime. We are uncomfortable with the current arrangement of firefighting as problems arise and would like things to be better planned. We would like to see a management plan submitted proposing how, when and in what circumstances trees are replaced, if nursery stock should be grown in readiness, how the substantial root spread is to be dealt with before any replacement and how replacement should be phased to minimize impacts. The Estate has a long-term interest and, mindful of heritage sensitivities, it would not be unreasonable to ask this.

The proposed tree works take place in the autumn season when sap is falling in order to give the tree the best chance of survival.

Please would you keep us informed of any changes to the application.

Stephen Heath  
**On behalf of the Bloomsbury Association**