

Dawson (development), Barry

From: Bloomsbury Association <bloomsbury@me.com>
Sent: 01 May 2017 19:49
To: DC Mail
Cc: Remmington, James; BCAAC@hughcullum.com; Bloomsbury Association
Subject: APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO A TREE PROTECTED BY A TPO 2017/2137/T

BEDFORD SQUARE GARDENS, LONDON WC1B 3HH

PROPOSAL: 1 x Plane - Remove (TPO ref C5)

Application for works to tree covered by a TPO: 2017/2137/T

The Bloomsbury Association is minded to support this application but not 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 understand that the intention is to replant in the same position by 2018 with an alternative species in order to avoid re-infection by present pathogens. We also understand that the alternative resistant species selected in this case is Liriodendron Tulipifera. We would support such a strategy but it is not fully described in the proposal. If additional information is not provided prior to determination, we suggest that a condition be applied requiring replacement with the species and size of the replacement tree specified, method statement and month of planting to be approved before works commence.

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 minimise impacts. The Estate has a long-term interest and, mindful of heritage sensitivities, it would not be unreasonable to ask this.

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

Stephen Heath

On behalf of the Bloomsbury Association