



The Heath & Hampstead Society

President Lord Hoffmann *Vice-President* Martin Humphery *Chair* Marc Hutchinson
Patrons Lady Hopkins Gerry Isaaman oBE Sir Simon Jenkins
Bill Oddie Tom Oliver Sir John Tusa

Est. 1897

Application number: 2017/5507/T: Application type: Notification of Intended Works to Tree(s) in a Conservation Area - OBJECTION

The Heath & Hampstead Society objects to this application on the following grounds:-

The application is legally invalid as it professes untruthfully to relate to felling of trees within the grounds of Spencer House, Vale of Health, London NW3 1AS. The application has nothing to do with the land on which stand the block of flats and gardens known as Spencer House, Vale of Health, NW3 1AS. It is actually an application in relation to a separate piece of land with its own freehold registered title adjoining Spencer House in the name of Polar Bren Ltd of whom the applicant, Jita Lukka, is a director and shareholder and who has named the land "Bren Cottage". The exact position of the trees is only identified at para 7 of the application.

Para 7 also suggests that the trees should be felled to avoid structural damage or damage to the Spencer House and retaining wall. There is no evidence as to this and the answers to paragraph 8, 1 and 2 of the application are 'no'. The owners of Spencer House do not support this application.

Jita Lukka is the process of building structures on the site without planning permission and we understand that enforcement proceedings are proposed by LB of Camden in response, the owner having failed to comply with a request by the LB of Camden to remove the structures. We say that this application should be refused, not least because these enforcement procedures are ongoing.

The trees which are mature, beautiful and healthy, screen the site from the Heath and the roadway leading to the Heath. Indeed, many would assume the trees to be part of the Heath because on its east side the site abuts the Heath itself. The site has for decades been virtually invisible, in large part because of the trees. Although we are concerned about all the trees, we are particularly concerned about trees 5 and 6 which front the Heath and pond. The present owner has already removed much vegetation from the boundary with the Heath and pond so that the illegal buildings are now clearly visible from the Heath and will be more so if the trees are felled. Given that the land is metropolitan open land and cannot be built upon, there can be no legal basis for the authorising the gratuitous destruction of the trees.

Please refuse the application.

Yours faithfully

Marc Hutchinson
Chair



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To: Gerry Oxford, Appeals and Enforcement Team,
London Borough of Camden

Date: 28 October 2017