

17 Rudall Crescent  
London NW3 1RR

9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

For the attention of Nick Bell  
Tree Officer  
Appeals & Enforcement Team/ Planning Dept.  
London Borough of Camden  
C/O Town Hall  
Judd Street  
London WC1H 9JE

Dear Nick

**Application for tree removal -15 Rudall Crescent NW3 1RR – App No:  
2017/5384/T**

I wish to object to this application on the grounds that the Lauris Nobiliis (incorrectly referred to on the application as a Bay Laurus) is an important tree in the Rudall Crescent streetscape which given its very prominent position, provides both screening and considerable privacy for numerous properties nearby. Rudall Crescent is within the Hampstead Village Conservation Area.

The tree is not close to the front boundary wall. It is situated 3 yards away. The application incorrectly states that the wall is in poor condition because of the tree. That is not the case. The boundary wall is just an old wall; it is over 130 years since it was built. It is still standing despite the Laurus being at least 50 years old and fully grown. I have consulted my own extremely expert tree surgeon who says that this species does not grow any faster or slower or more invasively than any other tree.

The tree is in fact extremely close to the boundary wall with No 13 Rudall Crescent and that wall shows no signs of being adversely affected. The impact of the tree on the front wall has been grossly exaggerated. All that is required is for this lovely tree to be properly maintained. There is a huge lime tree very close to the Lauris Nobiliis at No 13 (on the boundary with No 17) and there is no damage to the retaining wall there which would be much more likely, given the greater height and overall size of the lime.

I am suspicious as to the real motive for this application. The owner of No 15 has a smart car. It is currently charged from an electric point mounted on his front boundary wall with an illegal cable crossing the footpath. It seems likely that the application to remove the tree may have more to do with a desire ultimately to create an off street parking space (together with a crossover) so that the smart car can be parked and charged legitimately. Of course it is Camden policy not to permit such off street parking, particularly at the front of a property in this Conservation Area.

It would be a tragedy to remove the tree in the hopeful expectation that permission be granted for off street parking. It would be a tragedy to remove it at all. After all the front wall can easily be repaired if necessary. The solution therefore is that the tree be properly maintained (and if needs be trimmed) and that the Council place a TPO on the Lauris Nobiliis.

Best wishes  
Yours sincerely



Jenny Stevens