

[REDACTED]

From: Wendy [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2017 09:41
To: Planning
Subject: Attn: Tree Team

Importance: High

Dear Nick Bell,

Ref 2017/6427/T

It is absolutely essential that the Laburnum tree in the rear garden of 49 Rosslyn Hill, NW3 5UH should NOT be felled.

It serves several important functions, not only to us:

1. It is an essential wind-break for the winds that in winter whip round from Thurlow road and across the gap behind the three end-houses of this terrace.
2. Situated as we are on quite a steep hill, the laburnum (with its neighbouring ash tree) is planted in a position as close to the house as is safe, where it can take up a considerable amount of the water that must run down the hill and would otherwise threaten the basement of this building.
3. This tree is of a size and shape that acts as a very effective, and also very attractive, visual screen between our house and the long dreary row of brick walls that are the backs of the houses lining the road behind us that form our view all the way up to Lyndhurst Terrace.
4. The laburnum also protects our building from being overlooked from the terrace to the back of Thurlow road and also, of course, saves their gardens from being overlooked by us!
5. In summer our garden has full sun all day long and the house needs the foliage of the laburnum tree to mitigate the heat of the sun's rays that fall directly onto the back of the house. The laburnum tree's leaves and blossom give protection from the heat and allow, especially the

basement / garden flat, to enjoy the light of the sun, while protecting it from overheating.

6. In wider consideration, as we are in a conservation area I would mention that this garden is amazingly full of birds in the spring and summer, many small birds that you don't even see on the Heath, and there is no doubt that many of them have been nesting in the ivy that hugs --but does not, contrary to its reputation, actually strangle and will not, I have been assured, even weaken the supporting tree.

Although the laburnum has become entwined with ivy, I am reliably informed that this does Not represent a threat to the tree, and will not in any way damage it; on the contrary the ivy-cladding will ensure that at least some of the wildlife that has flourished in and around the Laburnum -- nesting robins and wrens in spring, and blackbirds and thrushes etc feeding on its berries later in the year-- can continue undisturbed. Even during winter ivy may provide a home for hibernating butterflies, though I'm afraid the ivy remaining round the laburnum may not be enough to support all of the very varied wildlife we have enjoyed in this garden until now, we surely must preserve what is left.

7. There is also the consideration that as our front gardens, small as they were, have now had to become bin parks in the interest of recycling, we desperately need to preserve our oxygen providers in trees themselves and, as an evergreen, the ivy that surrounds this laburnum provides valuable oxygen for this area in the short days of winter, especially here, close as we are to an increasingly heavily-travelled road, now carrying vast container lorries, and even vehicle-carrying vehicles -- greater polluters than have ever been seen in Hampstead before.

I hope I have been able to give you some idea of the vital importance of our laburnum tree, of its well thought-out placement in the original planting of this carefully planned garden, and of its current value to the wildlife and to the health of the area.

It would be a tragedy for this lovely and useful tree to be felled.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Rix