

[REDACTED]  
07.08.18

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Your Ref: 2018/2329/T**

Application for proposed work to the cherry tree (covered by a TPO ref: C1069) in the front garden of 19, Belsize Crescent, London NW3 5QY

I am the owner occupier of the property which is [REDACTED] opposite this tree at no. 19, Belsize Crescent, so I observe it and those interacting with it, every day and I am shocked to note yet another application, only some three years since the previous one, by the current owners of the lower floors of no. 19, Belsize Crescent, to fell the wonderful Cherry tree, that in fact everyone in its block actually own under their shared freehold.

And I certainly do object whole-heartedly to this further application to fell this glorious cherry tree, which is as old as all of the neighbouring properties, providing visual amenity to the streetscape, a unique identity to the conservation area in which it stands and mature eco-system and natural habitat for a variety of insects, bees and birds it provides abundant habit for. There is nothing to gain by the felling of this beautiful cherry tree and everything to gain by retaining it – the local neighbourhood would suffer without it. When this cherry tree is in full-bloom, it is the absolute focal point of the street and adults and children alike, simply stop and stare at its abundant blossom, and photograph it.

Notwithstanding this, it is clear that some sections of this tree rather suspiciously experienced some form of malicious toxic attack (such as topically applying the herbicide, 'Round-up') or starving its soil of water or essential nutrients (such as by adding salt at its base). This started to appear shortly after the failure of the current custodians' former application to fell it, and it certainly isn't suffering from any natural fungal infection as that would present as an overall effect, (rather than in root-connected sections), but I have absolutely no doubt, however, that this wonderful tree can still be saved if these cynical applicants were forced by the Camden authorities, to put their hands into their pockets to pay for measures to counter their own poisoning and also be made to regularly pollard it at the correct time of year for a Cherry to keep it healthy. The tree really looks like its fighting to survive these repeated attacks, so let's help it!

In the meantime, to deter other similar selfish acts, I suggest that you intervene here, by demanding a full investigation into this particular malicious act of vandalism, by taking soil samples from its roots to a Lab for analysis and inspecting its trunk for incisions and drill holes, to establish evidence via expert opinion, of this short-sighted criminal damage. And the applicants should, if found guilty, be prosecuted accordingly. If you don't do this, the TPO protection strategy is a farce.

Yours faithfully.

Clare Chance  
[REDACTED]