

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2018/6162/T	Eton CAAC	04/01/2019 10:45:38	OBJ	Eton Conservation Area Advisory Committee

Advice from Eton Conservation Area Advisory Committee: 03.01.2018

Re 3 Eton Villas: 2018/ 6162 / T

This is an application to remove a mature fig tree in the front garden of a recently refurbished listed house in Eton Villas which is in the heart of the Eton Conservation Area. This tree has been a feature of the streetscape in this part of the conservation area for decades. Together with the mature horse chestnut immediately next to it in the adjoining property (4 Eton Villas), it forms a focal point to the setting of the group of listed Victorian villas at the junction of Provost Road and Eton Villas.

According to the application the grounds for its removal are "... because it has outgrown its position and rendering (sic) the adjacent wall unsafe adjacent to the public highway". It is proposed to "... replant with a more appropriate tree in a nearby location".

There is reference in the Tree Report to scarring and "occluding" to the trunk of the fig tree but it does not appear to be unhealthy or dangerous. The only reason to remove it appears to be the fact that the root collar is pushing against the foundations of the boundary wall.

The Eton Conservation Area Statement makes frequent reference to the contribution made by street trees to the nature of the Conservation Area. and under "Guidelines" section ET40 states "All trees which contribute to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area should be retained and protected." We understand that this tree may be the subject of a Tree Preservation Order which predates the establishment of the Eton Conservation Area.

To fell a mature tree which makes such an outstanding contribution to the street scene of this part of Eton Villas and Provost Road because it is close to the front boundary wall is unacceptable. It should not be approved. If the wall is unsafe it should be rebuilt to accommodate the tree, not the other way round.

Yours sincerely,

Eton CAAC