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## **2019/1515/P Arboricultural Assessment of 26 Netherhall Gardens Camden NW3 5TL.**

**1.1 Inspection date:** 23rd May 2019 by Mr. Kim Gifford, undertaken with reference to documents published in application 2019/1515P London Borough of Camden Public planning information, and at the time of inspection.

**1.2 Method:** *Visual Tree inspection references, Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management by David Lonsdale and The body language of trees by Claus Mattheck and Helge Breuer. The Arboricultural Association guidance note 7 tree surveys a guide to good practice. Lantra award Professional tree inspection.*

**1.3 Instruction:** I Kim Gifford Arboricultural Consultant (see profile page 12)

My brief is to carry out a tree impact assessment regarding the planning proposal 2019/1515/P. I am instructed by the neighbouring residents of 24a Netherhall Gardens.

**1.4 Background:** I understand that there are concerns about the removal of specimen T6 Lime, T7 Holly, T8 Lime, T9 Yew, T10 Holly, and the consequent impact on T2 Lime. Additionally, there is reference to the Magnolia in the garden of 24a Netherhall Gardens. Reference is made to the Tree Report by Crown Consultants – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

## **1.5 Impact Assessment:**

With reference to the Crown Consultant's tree report 5.2 Tree Removal extract below:

5.2.1. All trees to be removed are indicated on the Tree Removal Plan and are listed below:

*“• **Retention Category A:** It is proposed to retain all Retention Category A trees.*

*• **Retention Category B:** It is proposed to retain all Retention Category B trees.*

*• **Retention Category C:** It is proposed to remove the following Retention Category C trees: T6, T7, T8, T9 and T10. These trees are located within, or close to, the footprint of the proposal. Consequently, their retention is not practical.*

*These are relatively small trees (maximum height 5m). They are located within a rear garden and are barely visible from public vantage points (see Photograph 10 which shows their limited visibility from Netherhall Gardens). The trees grow within a dense group of shrubs and the two larger trees, T6 and T8, are both limes that have been previously topped at approximately 2m above ground level. Consequently, they are all considered to have a low amenity value. Their removal shall not have a significant impact on the visual amenity of the locality and they are not considered to be a material planning consideration.*

*• **Retention Category U:** Our survey did not identify any Retention Category U trees”*

My assessment appraisal contrasts with the Crown Consultant's assessment. T6, T7, T8, T9 and T10 are not all small trees. T6 Lime and T8 are taller than 5m. My calculations estimate 7m at their highest points. I also contest that they are barely visible from public vantage points or there is limited visibility from Netherhall Gardens. The following photographs fig 1 to 9 show views from all cardinal points demonstrating the importance of this group the visual public local amenity value in a conservation area. It is also my calculation that T8 Lime should have been classified as a B (BS5837:2012) not a C. As a group all these trees are significantly offer an important amenity. As stated in the Crown report there are “No defects found” therefore I calculate they all have a significant potential to the landscape for now and the future and will live longer than 20-40 years. The Crown Report states that T6 Lime and T8 Lime where topped at 2m, my observation is that they where historically pollarded at 3.5m and subsequently allowed to grow further without pruning for 3 to 5 years. Crown sizes and dimensions within the Crown Report survey of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016 appear to be lower than measurements of the trees present. T2 Lime classified as B and an important specimen to be retained has not been afforded full protection of the root protection area on the Crown Report drawings, the root protection fencings should extend beyond the whole area not a proportion of the area. The Magnolia in 24a rear garden is significantly larger and mature, the Crown Report survey is not accurate.

All of the trees stated in the Crown Report for removal should be retained on the grounds of preserving the local amenity and character of the neighbourhood. They are sound arboriculturally and show good potential overall.



*Figure 1 View from North 28 Netherhall Gardens*





*Figure 2 View from South 24 Netherhall Gardens*





Figure 3 View from South 22 Netherhall Gardens





*Figure 4 View from West Netherhall Gardens*





*Figure 5 View from West Netherhall Gardens*



Figure 6 View from East opp 26 Netherhall Garden 1st floor





Figure 7 View from East opp 26 Netherhall Gardens





Figure 8 View from 24a Netherhall Gardens





*Figure 9 View from 26 Netherhall Gardens*

## **Consultant Mr Kim Gifford: Profile**

Prior to starting GTS Kim Gifford completed a 4-year apprenticeship in 1972 with the Royal Parks at Hampton Court Palace acquired City and Guilds Horticulture and Arboriculture. In addition to these qualifications Kim Gifford continued his professional development by attending seminars, conferences, studying for the professional diploma and foundation degree in Arboriculture. Further work experience during pre-business period included sub-contracting for Arb. Companies. Work as a lead Arborist for London Borough of Ealing and Arborist in Berlin Germany.

Kim Gifford t/a Gifford Tree Service started trading as a sole trader in 1980 and in 1985 became a partnership. The company specialises in all aspects of Arboriculture. From 2007 Kim Gifford now again, trades as a sole trader in his own right. In 1988 Kim Gifford became an approved contractor with Arboricultural Association after a comprehensive assessment and reassessments in 2002/2007 Kim Gifford served on committees of the Arboricultural Association for 10 years and became the National Chairman of the Arboricultural Association in 2001. Kim Gifford is now an honorary member of the Arboricultural Association.

Kim Gifford personally undertakes Picus sonic decay tests for local authorities and other Arboricultural contractors all over the Southern area of England. Kim Gifford owns the Picus equipment [treetesting.com](http://treetesting.com) for 13 years and completed over 3000 tests, so he has considerable experience in the analysis of the tomographic images. He provides this service to compliment other consultant reports, this is combined with my 42 years' knowledge in Arboriculture.

The whole Picus system has been updated and maintained to the recent Picus manufactures improvements.

Kim Gifford has undertaken many Tree Surveys including Mortgage reports and BS5837 surveys to meet planning authorities' requirements during development proposals plus Tree Preservation applications and planning inspectorate appeals.

Kim Gifford was certificated recently by Lantra training awards with Professional Tree Inspection Certificate 30th November 2013 and Arboricultural Association Certificate BS5837 – Advanced Tree Assessment for Planning 4th May 2016.

Kim Gifford also provides quotations for recommended works, Risk Methods Statements, Health & Safety Policies, Site Specific procedures operation supervision and management services.