

**Street tree outside number 41 Ingham Road. NW6 1 DS. October 2018**

Street trees are grown in the pavement or verge adjacent to the highway.

They are maintained on behalf of the public by the local council.

Maintenance for street trees is funded by ratepayers.

Street trees are pruned usually by the councils direct labour force.

Most councils respond positively to householder requests to prune trees.

Choice of species for street tree planting is ever changing and the planters dilemma is that the trees most suited to the urban environment are often the least suitable for it.

Street trees are pruned more frequently than other trees grown for amenity.

The reasons for pruning street trees include:

- To minimise the risk of failure of all or part of the tree.
- To comply with the height clearances required by the Highways Act.
- To keep the trees within manageable limits in a restricted environment.
- To prevent direct or indirect damage to structures.
- To maintain the proper functioning of above ground services.
- To maintain the proper functioning of underground services.
- To allow access for the maintenance of services.
- To avoid injury claims from the public.
- To avoid claims of actionable nuisance from the public.
- To maintain the benefits the trees are producing for the public.

The street tree outside number 41 is included within the LB Camdens schedule for maintenance this year.



The street tree has historically been pruned back from the building as is common practice in similar trees in similar locations. The Highway Act expects landowners to lift the crowns of their trees to 5.2 metres over the carriageway – in this case there are parking spaces underneath the tree and high sided delivery vans are possibly the only vehicles that could make contact with the crown of the tree.

## **Building proposal**

The owner of number 41- 43 Ingham Road has drawn up proposals to extend the building vertically.

The LB of Camden has historically consented to this.

Vertical extensions can be achieved without major pruning of the street tree outside number 41.

The roots of the tree are protected by the existing pavement.

A high kerb and pavement posts discourage vehicles from parking on the pavement.

The stem of the tree can be protected during building works by a 2 metre high plywood box placed at the edge of the unpaved area at the base of the tree.

This box can be fixed to adjacent pavers using expansion bolts.

The protective box is to prevent damage caused by accidental impacts to the stem.

Scaffolding will be assembled on the pavement and the part of the working platform adjacent to the crown of the tree will be narrowed down to 0.5 metres.

For the remainder of the elevation scaffolding can be the full width of the pavement.

It is suggested that the minimum amount of pruning required to assemble and use the scaffolding is carried out during the building works.

When building works are complete the tree can then be pruned by arborists who have an eye for pruning that will allow the tree to maximise its visual benefit for the public.

Contractors will be responsible for pavement licences in order to carry out consented works.

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