

Application No: 2019/5724T
Consultees Name: Alvarez-Pereyre
Received: 21/11/2019 15:17:20
Comment: OBJ

Response:

Dear Madam or Sir,

We are writing today to object to the proposed felling of the Willow Tree at 37 Roderick Road, NW3 2NP.

We are the family living at [REDACTED] our back garden faces the willow tree, and as such, we are directly affected by the proposal.

We object to the felling on the following grounds:

- Environmental: climate change and the preservation of our planet are arguably the key questions of our time. Increasingly, it is recognised that trees are the major providers of ecosystemic services to our environment, hence the campaigns across the world to plant thousands if not millions of trees. These trees are not only needed in the countryside or in non-urban areas, they are also desperately needed in urban areas, where they play a major role in fostering biodiversity, improving soil quality (to protect from floods, for instance), interacting with other plants and organisms to create a living ecosystem. When a tree such as this one is felled, we, as an ecosystem, lose 50 or 60 years of adaptation by nature around that particular tree, above and below ground.

More generally, Camden's own policies, as found in 'Planning Guidance: Trees' paragraphs 1.8 to 1.16, demonstrate the high value of trees in our urban habitat (<https://www.camden.gov.uk/documents/20142/4823289/Trees+CPG.pdf/d8724c18-1cc8-d07e-c3d9-61e6f734bc20>).

At a time when the north of England is affected by terrible floods, we should heed the warnings, and realise that soil permeability (which is fostered by the presence of the roots of mature trees, <https://www.deeprout.com/blog/blog-entries/how-trees-affect-soil-infiltration-rates>) is an important defense against floods, a topic made even more crucial by the location of our properties, at the bottom of Parliament Hill (where the slope would undoubtedly concentrate heavy rainfalls).

- Landscape: this willow tree is most likely the largest tree in the 'rectangle' of gardens between Roderick Road, Constantine/Savernake Road, Lisburne Road and Agincourt Road/Heathgate Place. If it were felled, it would have a hugely detrimental effect on the amount of greenery in the area: the sight of the tree is prettier than the sight of the blind brick wall at the back of Heathgate Place, which is what we would all see if the tree were felled.

- Privacy: at present, the back gardens and back windows of the properties around the tree are well sheltered from the properties from across the gardens. Should this tree be felled, all properties would overlook the ones opposite and vice-versa, with an immense loss of privacy for all dwellings.

Based on the above elements, we strongly object to the felling of the willow tree at 37 Roderick Road, and hope the Council will take the decision to protect what is a vital asset of our community, a decision that our children and grand-children will be grateful for in decades to come.

Kind regards,
The owners
[REDACTED]

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2019/5724/T	Jonathan Byatt	19/11/2019 15:16:44	SUPC	While it is perfectly understandable to wish to remove a tree which is posing a risk to a nearby residence, it is concerning to consider a healthy tree is to be destroyed. If this willow is to be removed can it be taken out as a healthy body with sufficient roots to be transplanted. There are a range of locations within Camden, including within south end close estate, which could benefit from this transplanted tree adding to their noose and pollution efforts and improving their quality of life. Can this please be considered and mandated as a condition of removal in Cooperstown ok n with Camden council's gardening contractors. Thank you.
