

Torriano Cottages

9 December 2019

Dear Vicki

Thank you for coming to look from some of our gardens at the impact on them of the Dawn Redwood tree in your garden. The cards you dropped in to some of us subsequently told us that you are taking action with a view to reducing the height of the tree by 10 per cent. We are writing because such a reduction would not be enough to reduce the tree's impact.

The tree has grown appreciably since John Harraway inspected it at the end of 2012 and its impact on all of us has increased. The main impacts are:

- plants not growing because the tree's branches hang over, or shade, neighbouring gardens,
- roots lifting paving stones,
- diminished light and length of sunshine in all of our gardens,
- needles clogging drain pipes and getting into houses every autumn,
- the danger of falling branches and lightning strikes.

In his inspection report, John Harraway referred to the risk of a lightning strike, a risk that would increase as the tree grows. He saw no particular threat that the tree would collapse but recommended that the tree's health be periodically monitored, mentioning a frequency of once every three years. We understand that you have not had the tree monitored since 2012.

We wonder if you have considered the fact that failure to monitor the tree's health as recommended by John Harraway could impact on your insurer's willingness to indemnify you for damage caused by the tree. In addition, we are sure that you are aware of the developing law about loss of light and nuisance to neighbouring property.

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The impacts will not be reduced by a 10 per cent reduction of the tree's size; our view is that the tree should be removed. Short of removal of the tree, a substantial reduction of both the width and the height of the tree might make a valuable improvement, but of course this remains to be seen in practice. We feel, and know that you share, a feeling that Torriano Cottages is a community and not just a set of houses. At its current size, the tree is, in our view, detrimental to many of us in the community.

We would be grateful if you could respond in the next two weeks.

[REDACTED] Janet Taylor

[REDACTED] Giles Taylor

[REDACTED] Mary Goyder

[REDACTED] James Kennedy

[REDACTED] Emma Bell

[REDACTED] Andy Miller

[REDACTED] Ann Sedley

[REDACTED] Madeleine Colvin