



The Heath & Hampstead Society

The Society examines all Notices of Intent for tree work relating to Hampstead and Hampstead Heath Fringes, and assesses them for their impact on the Conservation Areas, the local environment and building stability.

To London Borough of Camden, Tree Preservation Team

Planning Ref: 2020/1413/T
Address: 91 Fitzjohn's Ave NW3
Description: REAR GARDEN: 1 x Scots Pine (T1)- Fell to ground level.
Case Officer: Tree Allocation
Date: 30th March 2020

The canopy of this fast growing tree is clearly too large for the site - Bing Bird's Eye views tend to be about 10 years old. I am assuming though that it is a hybrid scots pine as its canopy is considerably denser and larger than the indigenous scots pine that is noted in the Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan as one of the tree species that defines our area (NE2 4.1), and grows successfully in Hampstead and on the Heath, even in very tight spaces such as here. It may be that not being entirely enclosed, hence more access to light, has encouraged more density too? In 2008 on Street View from Ellerdale Road this scots pine at 91 Fitzjohn's Ave looks rather thin in canopy beneath and behind its neighbour of 89A Fitzjohn's Ave the sycamore. Once the sycamore was felled the scots pine canopy is much better and it seems to have grown taller, thicker and faster in subsequent years.

While I would support its removal, I would also urge the owners to replace it.

I would, but the owners might not wish to risk another scots pine (this time not a hybrid!), but another more columnar tree on the boundary, or a carefully shaped holly or yew could work well. This would add immensely to the treescape of the Conservation Area as well as help reduce the quantity of groundwater running towards the site of the old conduit and eventually the east branch of the river Westbourne.

89A Fitzjohn's Avenue may not yet have planted the replacement for the large sycamore that was felled in 2011/12? (2011/5808/T) after the garage was built in 2008 - it is difficult to see, but it seems not - and a pair or trio of columnar trees across both sites could do well here. They would be beautiful, provide shading for the climate change to come and for privacy, be a noise baffle (especially holly) as well as re-provide the habitat that such evergreens give all year round. For many small birds, pines provide shelter from predators, nesting places and seed. If our combustion-engined traffic - both on the roads and in the air - continues at the current level then reduces to zero, the bird song from such trees would be much more evident and an additional benefit to all.

Dr Vicki Harding, Society Tree Officer, Heath & Hampstead Society



Scots pine in rear garden 91 Fitzjohn's Avenue March 27th 2020



89A & 91 Fitzjohn's Avenue: Google Maps Street View from Ellerdale Road in 2008