

Anne B. Prasad, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

27 April 2020

Dear Camden Council Tree Allocation,

Application reference 2020/1700/T

Thank you for letter of 20th April 2020 informing me of a proposal to fell the willow tree in the rear garden of 21 Nassington Road NW3 2TX. My husband and I are the owners of flat 2-3 at this address and share the rear garden with the owners of flat 4.

I am the custodian of the willow tree in question, which is about fifty years old. Since 1996, and following telephone advice from a member of the Arboricultural Association, I have been having it pruned (each time with planning permission) on average every five years. I have retained full details of this work (1996, 1999, 2006, 2012, 2016; accumulated cost, £2300).

Throughout the years the tree has been pruned more and more robustly, its last pruning being: 'crown reduction back to one metre above most recent pruning points.' The summer growth now extends as a circular canopy, about half of which hangs over the slope of the adjacent railway land (and can be seen from the trains).

The tree's next pruning would have been due in March 2021 (and I would shortly have been applying for planning permission). I can now take no steps in relation to this until I know what the tree's fate may be.

I was shocked to learn about the planning application, because I had received no forewarning of the request and had not been consulted about the tree's maintenance over the years. I now understand that my neighbours at no. 23 were themselves unaware of this this application by their insurance agents.

Let me assure you that we admire and respect our neighbours at no. 23 and under no circumstances, would we oppose the felling of this tree should its roots have a genuine role in their problem. However, it would be a tragedy to destroy a healthy tree of benefit to the environment, without proper evidence. I am therefore pleased to note that the agents are planning to obtain further advice from an arborist and trust that this may save it.

Yours sincerely