

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2020/3191/T	Eleanor Pole	23/07/2020 18:16:30	OBJ	<p>We live on Dartmouth Park Road and the views from our windows look directly across our neighbours' gardens on Boscastle Road onto this handsome tree at the back. This tree, which I understand to be a Thuja rather than a Lawson cypress, is a magnificent specimen which enhances the local conservation area, contributing a verdant garden backdrop shared by many neighbours on three streets, as well as passers-by. Its leafy grandeur and pleasing pyramidal shape may be appreciated by users of both Boscastle and Laurier Road, enlivening what would otherwise be an inward- and outward-facing gap between the houses of Boscastle Road and the more mixed architecture of Laurier Road near the junction, and thereby significantly diluting the impact of the built environment. As a vigorous, apparently healthy evergreen, this tree provides a year-round screen for the people of the area. Furthermore, urban trees are important in terms of cooling temperatures and counteracting climate change (https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/urban-trees-and-greenspace-in-a-changing-climate/the-role-of-urban-trees-and-greenspaces-in-urban-climate-regulation/).</p> <p>A huge evergreen tree like this will play an important role in improving the air quality for local people by filtering the polluted air, removing CO2 and releasing oxygen. Camden Council is committed to protecting existing trees as well as planting new ones, and an established specimen such as this will be invaluable in many ways. For example, noise can be a problem in this location, with rowdy pubgoers (the tree is in the middle of 5 pubs) and people leaving the Heath and Parliament Hill late at night, a large population of foxes, and local traffic and building works, echoing off the walls and facades of Laurier Road and Boscastle Road at this point, which must be to do with this gap and the configuration of the surrounding architecture. Perhaps most importantly, the dense foliage of the Lawson or Thuja provides shelter for nesting birds when many broadleaved trees are still in bud, as noted by the Woodland Trust, and thus performs an important service within the local ecology. I have observed robins and their fledglings, several blackbird pairs, goldcrests, finches, bramblings, dunnocks and great tits and blue tits this year, and bats. A survey of the nesting pairs of songbirds inhabiting this tree should be carried out, and no work should be carried out during nesting season. In view of the multiple important functions and amenities provided by this beautiful tree, I would ask the planning and tree officers to refuse permission for it to be felled, at a time when we should be protecting trees and wildlife. I will also be sending photographs via email, since there doesn't appear to be any way of submitting them here.</p>

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