

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2020/5383/T	Audrey Mandela	23/11/2020 16:10:17	OBJ	<p>I'm writing to object to application 2020/5383/T, submitted by 14 Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3 2PL, to fell a tree in their back garden.</p> <p>The back of our home looks across to the back of 14, and this particular tree acts as an effective screen between our two properties. It's also an old-growth tree and a very attractive amenity for neighbours and for the area in general. It would be a shame to lose it, especially as it would appear that 14 has already removed several other trees.</p> <p>We were also under the impression that this tree is a chestnut, rather than a sycamore. Perhaps before a decision is made the Council could get an expert opinion?</p> <p>After seeing this application we took a closer look at the tree and were very surprised to see that much of the earth in 14's back garden has been removed, such that the tree is now sitting on a very small area of ground that's level with the gardens of all of the properties that abut 14's garden. This concerns us greatly. If the tree is removed there would seem to be nothing to prevent even more earth from being removed, which could threaten the roots of surrounding trees and potentially cause movement of the ground in our own back gardens.</p> <p>We hope that the Council will look into this matter with urgency, as the situation appears to go well beyond an application to fell a tree.</p> <p>Thank you very much,</p> <p>Audrey Mandela 2 Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3 2PL</p>
2020/5383/T	Roberta Wick	23/11/2020 15:50:31	OBJ	<p>I strongly object to this application to remove an old chestnut tree which has been there for many decades. The applicant has already caused significant damage to this tree and has also removed several other large old trees from the garden without approval.</p> <p>The beauty of this large old tree is not only enjoyed by neighbours, but also provides privacy and shade to neighbouring properties. This is a conservation area, known for the beauty of the old existing trees. I would request a Tree Preservation Order be placed on this tree as soon as possible. Please don't let them take away our lovely trees.</p>

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2020/5383/T	Michael John Baker	23/11/2020 22:02:11	OBJ	<p>Dear Sir / Madam</p> <p>I am the owner and resident of 16 Hampstead Hill Gardens, the property next door to 14 Hampstead Hill Gardens.</p> <p>I would like to express my profound objection to the planning felling of yet more trees in this garden. Firstly the planning request incorrectly refers to the tree in question as being a Sycamore when it is in fact a Chestnut tree which is extremely mature and which has already suffered damage to its root system due to deliberate excavations close to its base.</p> <p>Over the past few months, the developers of the property have removed several trees from the garden without any apparent consultation or consent from the council. This has already had a substantial impact on the immediate area as a habitat for birds and wildlife. To lose a further tree and particularly such a beautiful and well established one as the one in the application would cause a disproportionate amount of damage to the canopy and the local environment. It would also have a detrimental impact on the overall tree population in a part of the road which has no trees on the pavement.</p> <p>Please can we assign a preservation order on the tree in question. Furthermore - please can we enquire why the tree surgeon misclassified a chestnut tree as a sycamore. I would trust that this is not a deliberate attempt to misrepresent the substance of the application.</p> <p>Please protect the trees in the local area. They take decades to grow yet very little time to cut down.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

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2020/5383/T	Jasbinder Bains	24/11/2020 08:29:28	OBJ

Response:

Dear Tree Allocation Case Officer,

I write to strongly OBJECT to the application 2020/5383/T at 14 Hampstead Hill Gardens for the removal of a tree in the back garden of the property that I live next door to at 16c Hampstead Hill Gardens, for a number of material reasons:

- The tree, according to the arborist who helped maintain my trees in 2012 - is a chestnut tree, rather than a sycamore tree as stated in the application.
- This chestnut tree has been in situ for decades, appears healthy, provides shelter and privacy throughout the year to my property, more so now that all of the vegetation in 14 HHG has been removed and the two other remaining trees in the garden of 14HHG have had a number of their branches removed without council authorisation
- This chestnut tree already has had its roots damaged - hacked away by an industrial digger and axes without any planning permission - in two separate stages of this development. Camden Enforcement Division have been notified
- This chestnut was one of five old growth trees in the garden of 14 Hampstead Hill Gardens. Two were been removed without planning permission during the initial stages of the external, unauthorised works, which excavated down up to 3.5m in parts of the garden, including potential root damage to this Chestnut tree and the remaining two tree in the garden. These trees were not depicted on the original plans, consistent with the complete lack of detail in the drawing for this application. Approval for this application would be tacitly endorse this behaviour and encourage other developers to go further without the correct planning approvals.
- The great amenity value afforded by this chestnut tree is absolute and relative - when enjoyed in the context of a row of a small number of old growth trees in the gardens of the south side of Hampstead Hill Gardens and Rosslyn Hill. The garden-scape would be irrevocably and negatively altered despite Hampstead's deserved status as a conservation area. This is not just one tree in one private garden, but should be viewed as vital natural capital that shouldn't be preserved if at all possible
- The application is from 14HHG, though the garden appears as one garden for 14a HHG. This confusion about who is applying and why, the unauthorised excavations already undertaken at the whole rear of 14HHG - which have, as mentioned, already caused damage to this chestnut tree - calls in question whether this is an application designed as a response to the request for such damaging, unauthorised works to stop, and in preparation for any new build that is planned alongside 14HHG
- Given the scale of the unauthorised excavations at the rear of 14HHG and damage to the root system of this chestnut tree and the two remaining trees in the garden of 14HHG, the removal of this chestnut tree would heighten concerns about the stability of the ground. The complete removal of all vegetation and associated root systems, plus the deep digging, plus the proposed removal of this tree, could seriously affect the structural stability of surrounding gardens.

In conclusion, I would request a Tree Preservation Order be placed on this tree as a matter of urgency and, given the repeated history of unauthorised works and associated damage already caused by this development, this application be rejected with prejudice.

Best regards

Jasbinder Bains
16c Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3 2PL

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2020/5383/T	Melvyn Bragg	23/11/2020 16:06:09	COMMNT	<p>As neighbours at No 12, we write to object to the proposal to fell a tree in the rear garden of No 14. We should point out in the first instance that we have been told by a tree surgeon that this tree is in fact a Chestnut and not a Sycamore</p> <p>Unauthorised works have already taken place in the rear garden of No 14 and should the garden be visited for inspection, it will be seen that a huge amount of earth has been removed and the garden has been excavated to a depth of 3.5m in places. It will also be found that a concrete wall has been built around the base of the tree following the removal of the earth.</p> <p>This tree provides our garden with great shade and privacy. Whilst I have no idea whatsoever of its age, certainly it is a very mature tree and I understand that chestnuts can live for many hundreds of years.</p> <p>This particular tree is appreciated by many neighbours in Hampstead Hill Gardens (and indeed from Rosslyn Hill) given its height and spread.</p> <p>Our concern is that given the tons of earth that have already been removed from the garden at 14, this tree might not be tended to with sufficient care. We were wondering, therefore, whether the Council might be minded to put this Chestnut under a Tree Preservation Order.</p> <p>Melvyn & Gabriel Bragg</p>

Total: 8