

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/0018/T	N Crockett	25/01/2021 17:05:11	OBJ	<p>I STRONGLY object to the proposed tree works at 158A Goldhurst Terrace, to fell 2 poplar trees to the ground. I have loved looking at these two beautiful, majestic poplar trees for the 26 years I have lived here, and it makes me distraught to look at them now, imagining the ugly empty space if they were felled to the ground, as proposed by the current owners of 158A Goldhurst Terrace.</p> <p>My objections to the proposed works are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical and irreplaceable local amenity: These two mature poplar trees have been growing here for several decades, and the poplars are literally irreplaceable (and they certainly cannot be replaced by “a suitable hedge”, as per the planning application). The rear gardens of South Hampstead are such important amenities - not just to the people who directly own the garden flats, but to all of their neighbors - and this is especially true of beautiful, mature trees like the 2 poplars in question. These two poplars are an integral part of the views of the South Hampstead conservation area, and they are amongst the most beautiful trees on Goldhurst Terrace and Aberdare Gardens.</li> <li>• Quality of life contributions for over 150 residents: Especially since the Covid-19 pandemic started, with all of us spending so much time in our flats, it's extremely important for all our well-being to be able to look out of our windows at trees, plants, and wildlife. The 2 beautiful poplar trees are prominent on the skyline, and they can be viewed by well over 25 buildings on Goldhurst Terrace and Aberdare Gardens - providing a lovely view to over 150 residents of our neighborhood. Ripping out these two mature trees would leave an ugly gap.</li> <li>• Privacy and screening: The 2 poplars provide valuable privacy and screening so that neighbors on Goldhurst and Aberdare on all floors aren't looking directly into the flats of one another.</li> <li>• Value to wildlife: As I am writing this email, there are 5 birds sitting in one of the poplar trees; felling them to the ground would definitely have a negative impact on local wildlife.</li> <li>• Rationale: The application lists “too tall/dangerous for our garden” as the rationale for chopping down the 2 poplars, but they lie at the far edge of the garden and are very healthy trees, so there is no reason to chop them down completely.</li> </ul> <p>Please note: I have no objection to the part of the planning application to fell the pear tree to the ground, if it is indeed unhealthy and if it is replaced by a similar shrub – but I plead with the Planning Department to refuse the request to fell the 2 mature, healthy poplars to the ground. There is no good reason to chop down the poplars, and removing them will leave just a very few shrubs and a very large “fake grass” carpet in the “garden” of #158A, negatively impacting the character of our neighbourhood.</p>