

G. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

POLICY 18: Trees

Development shall protect trees in good health that contribute to the character of the Area, individual streetscapes, and green spaces. This shall be achieved by development that:

- i. Protects existing trees and provides for their maintenance.
- ii. Makes provision for the planting of equivalent numbers of new trees where trees are cut down.
- iii. Makes provision for the appropriate planting of additional trees, relative to the size of the development.
- iv. Makes appropriate provision for the planting and maintenance of new street trees - particularly alongside the main roads identified in G12.

G12. The London Plan (7.64) says “trees” play an invaluable role in terms of the natural environment, air quality, adapting to and mitigating climate change and contributing to the quality and character of London’s environment”. The Mayor wants to see “an increase in tree cover with an additional two million trees by 2025”. The CCS (Policy 15) commits the Council to “protecting trees and promoting the provision of new trees and vegetation, including additional street trees”. Its Tree Strategy (CCS 15.22) “aims to retain trees and provide new trees on Council land” and says “we will resist the loss of trees and groups of trees wherever possible”. Trees - both on public and private land - make a hugely valued contribution to the character of the Area, and are widely appreciated and enjoyed by those living and working in the Area. They also make an important contribution to the biodiversity of the Area and play a highly significant role in improving the air quality of the Area. There is strong public support for the protection of existing trees and the planting of new trees at every available opportunity. The planting of new trees on streets, in parks and open spaces, on private land, and alongside new development is therefore strongly welcomed. The loss and removal of trees should be avoided unless in exceptional circumstances. In order to recompense for the removal of trees, additional trees should be planted to make up for the loss and to contribute further to the provision of trees in the Area.

There is also ample scope for the planting of new trees alongside the main roads in the area - including West End Lane, Fortune Green Road, Mill Lane, Kilburn High Road/Shoot-up-Hill/Cricklewood Broadway, and Finchley Road - as a means of absorbing high levels of air pollution caused by vehicle emissions.

RECOMMENDATION K: in support of Policy 17 the following actions are recommended.

- i. Additional Tree Protection Orders should be designated by Camden Council to protect existing trees and to promote a variety of species.
- ii. The use of funding from private companies and other sources should also be used to provide additional trees.
- iii. The views of residents, businesses and local groups should be sought as to where new trees should be planted.
- iv. A publicly available programme of tree maintenance for trees in the Area should be published by Camden Council, allowing for the removal of old trees and the planting of new ones.