

From: fiona feather
Sent: 12 April 2021 09:09
To: Planning
Subject: 2021/1333/T 103 Torriano Av Tree works

Dear Camden Planning Team.

I am writing to register my objection to, and concern about, the application 2021/1333/T, to fell the poplar tree in the garden of 103a Torriano Avenue, which is under a TPO.

First of all I would like to draw attention to the felling request application form submitted to the council and available to view on the planning portal, which gives the address as 107 Torriano Avenue. This seems to be a mistake, but somewhat undermines the application.

Assuming that we are using the plans submitted with the application, and the tree in question is the poplar in the garden of 103a, (T2) I object to its removal on the grounds that it is a valuable resource for the many people living in flats and houses on Torriano Avenue, Leighton Road and Leighton Grove. (Altogether, in 101, 103 and 107 Torriano Avenue alone there are sixteen flats.)

The canopy of this tree is fully visible to many homes that back onto Torriano Mews and is a refuge for a huge variety of birds. I disagree with the applicant's suggestion that these birds will go elsewhere if the tree is removed, and I also think it is beside the point. If we keep using that kind of argument we will quickly end up with nowhere for birds to alight that has the height they need to feel safe enough to land. The sight and sound of birds in this tree is a great source of joy, especially to those of us without a garden. A tree of this size will also be home to many insects, a crucial part of the ecosystem.

Aside from the wildlife that the tree harbours, the canopy of the tree in leaf is itself a thing of beauty – I have photographed it many times over the years and listened to it through my open window as it moves in the wind. Trees are the lungs of the city, and of the planet, and profoundly affect the quality of the built environment. It is not good enough to keep removing them because we have filled in every small parcel of land with buildings and they are now 'a problem'.

As I mentioned in my objection to the first Application to Fell, two other mature trees have already been removed in pursuit of solving the problems with Rennie House, presumably to no effect, even though they were considerably closer to Rennie House than T2. I feel strongly that this tree should not be sacrificed in addition to those that have already been lost, even though the applicant is now, somewhat belatedly, agreeing that they could have replaced those trees, and that the tree in question could also be replaced.

I ask the team looking at this application to consider where the most benefit lies.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns and objections.

With thanks,

Fiona Feather