

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2021/4818/T	Ching Court Association (A. Rigby)	27/10/2021 22:34:20	SUPPRT	

The Ching Court Association supports this application to:
a) replace one of the trees in Ching Court, which is visibly diseased and dying, and
b) give the other tree a really good prune, which is now several years overdue.

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The Ching Court Association represents the occupants of the buildings around the Comyn Ching Triangle, including more than 20 dwellings and several small businesses. Our objects include the maintenance and improvement of the historic nature and tranquil amenity of Ching Court, which is visited by hundreds of people each year and which features in books and other media Worldwide.

This unique and significant development is a single, cohesive entity - whose parts happen, happily, to originate from four centuries. The importance of its buildings, features and character were recognised in 2017 when Historic England updated the List to include all the buildings that surround Ching Court as well as the space behind them.

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The two trees were an important element of the design of Ching Court when it was redeveloped in the early 1980s. They soften the generally hard appearance of the courtyard, characterised by flat stonework, ironwork and post-modern wood features. They give some important privacy to the lower floors of the dwellings with windows behind. And they offer a welcome habitat for wildlife in this urban area.

Sadly, one of the ornamental cherry trees has been diseased for some time, its bark showing areas where silver leaf fungus is thriving. It would have been appropriate for it to have been replaced 2 or 3 years ago, but successive pandemic-related lockdowns made this challenging. It has now died, and it is imperative that it is removed to prevent the fungus spreading to the other cherry tree.

The diseased tree needs to be replaced with a variety of tree that will not pick up the infection that is likely to be left in the soil after the stump is removed. We have canvassed the views of the residents of the courtyard, and there is agreement that the variety suggested by the tree surgeon (Amelanchier Lamarckii) is a suitable option.

The other ornamental cherry tree, planted in 1987, has grown increasingly leggy and sparse. It should really be pruned every 4-5 years. But again, pandemic-related lockdowns delayed this in recent years. It will be good to get this job done at the same time as replacing the other tree.

We ask you to approve this conservation-focussed application made by the freeholder's managing agent.

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