

Delegated Report

Officer

Tom Little

Application Number(s)

2021/5286/T

Application Address

British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3PD

Proposal(s)

EAST SIDE: 3 x London Planes (T4, T5 & T6) - Draw back lateral branches that overhang the museum building and east access road by up to 3m. Raise the canopy of the trees to 6m above the access road.
1 x False Acacia (T7) - Fell to ground level.

Recommendation(s):

No Objection to Works to Tree(s) in CA

Application Type:

Notification of Intended Works to Tree(s) in a Conservation Area

Consultations

Adjoining Occupiers:

No. notified

0

No. of responses

No. of objections

1

Summary of consultation responses:

1. My wife and I are staggered that in this day and age of environmental crisis this proposal is even being considered. Unless there is a danger to life and limb this would be nothing short of vandalism. London plane trees are an iconic feature of London and Bloomsbury in particular and should be protected in their entirety. I am a Bloomsbury resident, a Camden council tax payer and a Member of the British Museum and I vehemently oppose these plans. Camden Council and the Bedford Estate have been enthusiastically planting new street trees in recent times which will take 20-50 years to reach maturity so at the same time it would be ridiculous to mutilate mature trees. Trees should be sacrosanct. Too many mature trees have already been chopped down in the area whether at Euston station or outside the Shaftesbury Theatre. Progress is unachievable unless all trees are fully protected. If this proposal is allowed it will send the wrong signal to developers and other entities who regard trees as mere street furniture.

CAAC/Local groups* comments:

*Please Specify

None

Assessment

The works to the London planes are relatively minor in nature and will not be detrimental to the health of the trees or to the character and appearance of the conservation area.

The Robinia is in very poor condition and would not be a suitable candidate for protection under a tree preservation order as it is largely dead.

It is recommended that the Council does not object the proposed works.