

From: Lucy Ash

Sent: 12 February 2022 15:58

To: Planning

Subject: plane trees removal from behind Doughty Mews - objection

Dear Camden

I was shocked to hear that there has been a fresh attempt to destroy two gorgeous mature London plane trees in our neighbourhood. I have live in the area (18 Mecklenburgh Square) for the past 25 years and I strongly object to the proposed felling of these two trees in the garden of 8 Doughty Street, less than one minute's walk from my home.

These trees will take more than a century to replace if they are wantonly destroyed. They are beautiful and much loved by many in the neighbourhood, as well as by visitors exploring this historic part of London.

Given how much air pollution there is in this corner of South Camden and the detrimental effects it has had on people's health, I cannot understand the logic behind this plan. Moreover the trees help to mitigate climate change.

It seems incredible that Camden would acquiesce in the loss of trees at a time like this. Yet the reason why it might do so is that it cannot see any alternative, given that the applicant's reason for felling is that the trees threaten an adjoining property. That property was previously on the market for some time, and it was not sold because of nervousness about the trees. One surmises that the reason for wishing to fell the trees is because they are obstructing the sale of the property in question.

A local architect and landscape designer with four decades of experience of co-locating buildings and trees, has advised me that with the right advice and proper management, trees and buildings can happily co-exist for decades and even centuries.

Therefore I urgently and strongly recommend that Camden refuse this application pending the following:

1. Further investigation and monitoring of structural movement, if any.

2. Reports from an independent engineer and arboriculturist, assessing options for retaining the trees and stabilising the building.

It would be a failure of governance if these two fine trees were sacrificed simply to line somebody's pockets and facilitate a sale. It might lead to questions about why the council is taking such an unecological stance which flies in the face of its stated commitments to improving air quality and the natural environment. Clearly the impact the trees have on health and wellbeing outweigh the concerns of the two ownerships involved.

Yours sincerely

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