

From: patsy hickman
Sent: 14 February 2022 16:16
To: Planning
Subject: Doughty street Plane trees in the back garden of No8

Dear Councillor in charge

I have been notified that the existence of the two plane trees at the back garden of No 8, Doughty street are yet again being challenged.

This time by the Egyptian archeological society. Originally, the buyer of the museum site challenged the trees as part of their contract.

You kindly put a preservation order on the trees.

The Egyptian society are now challenging as said above. They claim they want to stay on the premises and no longer want to sell. (May I point out they were very adamant about selling before).

I understand the museum now says that the trees are undermining the building. Although when this was brought up a year ago, my memory is that through photographic evidence the settlement was established as old and no longer moving. The museum claims that in removing the trees heave would not be a problem as the earth is extremely solid. I can't see that the solidity of the surrounding soil would not also apply to the immobility of the building's old damage. These are not poplar trees that are notorious for damage to surrounding buildings. They are plane trees.

We know that Plane trees clean air with a greater efficiency than any other tree in London and we know that the borough of Camden has the dirtiest air in London. I am sure the Mayor, who is determined and pledged to protect our children's clean air will support their preservation order.

Such is the local interest in these trees that many local architects have put their heads together to design the back wall with feature windows looking out directly onto the plane tree bark and moving the rear wall one half meter away from the trees. This seems to me to be a solution that would please a museum and archeologist. And my neighbour says his loss of garden privacy would be a minor thing to both keep the trees and please the museum. He is a very nice man.

Isn't this what neighbourliness should be about ? Good manners, the greater good, clean air, museums with features?

I shall be writing to the Mayor of London as well

With faith in the continued firmness of your previous ruling and thanks for the work you do to make Camden a cleaner borough

Patsy Hickman

Patsy Hickman (PhD)
7 Doughty Street
London WC1N2PL