

**From:** BRAG Committee  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 13:59  
**To:** Nick Bell; Planning  
**Subject:** OBJECTION to application 2022/0419/T

Dear Nick and Planning department

The Bloomsbury Residents Action Group (BRAG) objects strongly to the application for felling to the ground two mature plane trees that lie behind the rear of 3 Doughty Mews, home of the Egyptian Exploration Society. We note the application is from One Housing Group at 8 Doughty Street, as the trees lie within their property's grounds.

Protecting and preserving the natural landscape within a conservation area is as important as protecting and preserving buildings and their setting. Both trees have TPOs (Tree Protection Orders) so their removal would set an alarming precedent.

A local community initiative has resulted in a potential remedy to the issue of impact on the rear wall of the EES - professional architects and engineers are involved. With imagination, effort and the will to do so, it is usually possible to work around existing trees, even in complex situations.

It seems extremely premature and foolhardy to remove these plane trees before there has been sufficient time to explore ALL possible solutions. A compromise is very likely to be found. But if the trees are felled now, when they're gone, they're gone.

The environmental benefit of trees on health and wellbeing should not be under-estimated, especially within a dense residential area in central London. Bloomsbury needs more trees, not less.

It seems irresponsible to approve this application when a solution is at hand.

We object to the application in support of the many local residents who see the trees as a community and environmental asset.

Kind regards

Debbie Radcliffe  
Co-Chair, Bloomsbury Residents Action Group (BRAG)