

**From:** Mark van Harmelen

**Sent:** 18 March 2022 13:57

**To:** Julian Fulbrook (Cllr); Sue Vincent (Cllr); Domo Ball; Ben Cooper QC; Cany Ash; Robert Sakula; Nick Bell; Planning; Henry Lamprecht

**Subject:** Fwd: Working with the EES ( Planning application 2022/0419/T)

Dear Julian, Sue, Nick, Ben, Domo, Henry, Cany, Robert and Camden Planning Department

I have just sent this email to the EES with an offer of neighbourhood co-operation. I shall report back if we get a response.

[Apologies, a few of the recipients here (members of the Doughty Tree Group) should have been on the original send.]

With my best wishes

Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Mark van Harmelen

**Date:** Fri, 18 Mar 2022 at 13:48

**Subject:** Working with the EES

**To:** Carl Graves,

**Cc:** Cath Slessor, Gillian Darley, Gwyneth Sommerlad, Brian Sommerlad, Elizabeth Seward, Belinda Webb

Dr Carl Graves and the EES Trustees  
Egypt Exploration Society

Dear Carl and EES Trustees

We are a group of local residents acting to preserve the trees behind your building at 4 Doughty Mews. Our focus is multi-faceted:

- That trees and buildings can coexist happily in the long term. We can refer you to many successful schemes where trees are accommodated in close proximity to a building and enhance the building and its design.

- We believe that the EES can make a feature of the trees in its proposed development of a public archeology centre, and that this will enhance the centre.
- Being environmentally concerned, we are also very much in agreement with the spirit of Camden's refusal letter to the 2020 planning application to remove the trees; that design and engineering solutions should be sought to keep the trees.

In the light of these strands, our professional advisors (an eminent structural engineer and an arboriculturalist who is expert in the interaction between trees and buildings) have shown that there are both immediate and permanent solutions to keeping the trees in happy co-existence with your building at 4 Doughty Mews.

There are other advantages too, in that our professionals advise that keeping the trees will be less risky and more cost-effective than removing them.

Based on professional advice, there are two ways forward that we would like to propose to you:

- **The immediate solution**, useful for a few decades, involves removing, in limited areas behind the trees, 100mm of brickwork from a 440mm thick ground floor wall.

The cost of this, with internal re-plastering and fixing a gutter leak was estimated by our structural engineer as less than performing post-removal remedial works to your back wall and its foundations.

At the same time this approach avoids any risk of expensive damage to your and neighbouring buildings through ground heave and later inevitable root rot that then causes foundations and walls to sink. Incidentally, but without dwelling on this, these risks were identified by your professional advisors in their reports as well as by our local group's advisors.

- **The permanent solution** is also of the level of minor works, and would likely involve setting back very limited parts of your ground floor wall, enabling you to open out windows onto the tree trunks.

Besides being an enhancement to the building, the EES would be able to relate to visitors to the centre how it managed to save two magnificent 180-year old trees, drawing similarities with the EES's aims of preserving artefacts from the past.

The route to attain these advantages would be an insignificant fraction of the amount that you are planning to spend on your future centre.

While the EES has recently submitted an application to fell the trees, we hope that work by professionals and discussion spurred by this application can represent a chance for the EES and the local neighbourhood to put aside differences over the trees and to come together in a co-operative partnership that benefits both the EES and the neighbourhood.

It would be a pleasure for us to work together further the aims of the EES in establishing a centre for the public while at the same time preserving the trees and making them into a kudos-earning feature for the EES and the EES buildings.

Certainly we are already enthused by the idea of such a partnership, and should the EES be interested in this, we have manifold skills to offer including architectural design work, building work supervision, fund raising, social media campaigning and so on.

We would very much like to meet you and discuss how the trees and your building can co-exist, and how we can assist in your desires for a successful future. In such a meeting it might assist if we brought our professionals to the meeting to explain alternative views on the trees and building, and you would only have to ask for us to arrange for them to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Mark van Harmelen  
on behalf of the Doughty Trees Group