

To:

Re: Application number 2022/1475/T

Application type: Application for Works to Tree(s) covered by a TPO 106 Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3NB

From: Professor Judy Wajcman and Ms Jenny Earle, 121 Bedford Court Mansions, Bedford Avenue, London WC1B 3AG

As Camden residents directly affected by this application we are writing to object strongly to the proposed works on the splendid and aged London Plane tree in the back garden of 106 Great Russell Street, which for good reasons is subject to a Tree Preservation order.

We support and endorse the points made by others who have already lodged objections. Although it is not an application to remove the tree, the scale of the proposed works would massively reduce the size of the tree, which would itself represent a loss of amenity, and would quite possibly threaten the tree's survival. The loss of that tree would have an extremely significant negative impact on our local amenity, visual, environmental and ecological.

We agree with the point made by Mr David Judd that some responsible pruning would be helpful to protect the tree's health and longevity and may be desirable. However, the proposed works look tantamount to demolition. We would be worried not only about loss of amenity but also wider impacts on the ecosystem and soil composition in our immediate vicinity. A mature tree of this size would have been absorbing a lot of water and the potential effects of a drastic reduction in size and possible destruction should be fully investigated, especially in the context of climate change.

In view of the history of this matter, involving repeated threats to the integrity of this tree, we would like to see an independent professional arboricultural assessment commissioned by the Council to inform a pruning and tree maintenance plan. We would also appreciate the opportunity to visit the site and understand more fully what is proposed and whether we could agree more modest and viable pruning works to improve the health of the tree.

We urge Camden planners to refuse this application but enter into discussions about the maintenance of this tree.

Best wishes,

Judy Wajcman and Jenny Earle