

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2022/3761/T	Celia Hoyles	12/09/2022 16:04:05	OBJ	<p>We lodge an objection to felling this huge, healthy plane tree, possibly one of the oldest and tallest in the area? While sensible pollarding and management in compliance with the TPO is supported, there is no conclusive rationale for destroying this almost unique tree, nor convincing evidence that felling the tree will necessarily achieve the prevention of the differential foundation movements reported. We object to the proposal because a) the case for felling is inconclusive: are there not other plausible explanations for the damage? And b) it is possible that cutting the tree down may actually have implications for the stability of adjacent properties and structures.</p> <p>The tree is a large, mature public amenity and provides a high level of visibility in the area. It is subject to a TPO and nothing in the application provides convincing reasons for lifting the TPO.</p> <p>Permission to fell a similar huge plane tree was refused 18 June 2017 (2017/2512/T). The trees are similar and the same reasons surely hold? We should be aware of the dangers of creating a precedent for overruling a TPO, which tree be will next? 15 years is a short time in the life of this tree, (maybe 250 years old) and we surely ought to be wary of quick fixes to the environment which subsequently turn out to have unforeseen consequences.</p> <p>The tree is a significant component of the views within the conservation area. In fact, the council note in relation to the application 2017/2512/T mentioned above that there is a noticeable lack of street trees in the area.</p> <p>To be clear, just 5 years ago it was deemed a breach of the TPO in a conservation area for any person to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy, any tree in the conservation area. We believe nothing has has changed in those 5 years to allow the felling of the entire tree and the poisoning (sic) of the stump as proposed in this application.</p>