

From: ELIZABETH West
Sent: 27 January 2023 02:37
To: Planning
Subject: 14 Downshire Hill NW3 1NR 2023/0326T - Objection

Dear Camden Council,

1. Request for more time

Notice of the application to fell this mature willow tree was only published by Camden Council on 24.1.23 which is the same day on which it was registered and the closing day for comments. This is not long enough to make a response and I request that more time be given.

2. No written explanation

There is no accompanying report on the status of this tree, only photos of branches. What reason has been given for this mature tree to be felled?

3. Subsidence risk

Felling this mature tree and thereby destroying its root system could have a hugely negative impact on the substructure and stability of the houses around it. Could Camden Council confirm that an engineer's report has been made on the impact of felling this tree and that it will be made publicly available?

4. Conservation - remedial work

Willow trees are able to regenerate so damaged branches could instead have remedial work and the chance to regrow.

5. Amenity

This willow is an important and beautiful amenity for the neighbourhood. It provides screening between properties, reduces carbon and considerably improves air quality.

6. Wildlife habitat

Small birds like wrens build nests in the willow's slender branches. Willow tits build nests in excavated hollows. These birds are commonly seen in the neighbouring gardens. The flowers of the willow provide an early source of pollen for bees in the spring and are a favourite for butterflies and moths.

7. Conservation policy

Like my neighbours I am concerned that too many mature trees are being felled in our conservation area which is contrary to the public effort to increase the number of trees for a better environment. We need to conserve our mature trees rather than destroy them.

8. Objection

I urge Camden Council to refuse this application in order to protect the structural stability of neighbouring property; to protect the green corridor in this conservation area; to uphold the principles of the Neighbourhood Forum to which it has agreed, and to ensure the preservation of this valuable tree.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth West
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