



HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

29 March 2020

Re: 2020/1467/T, 14 Prince Arthur Road

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum objects to the proposed removal of three mature Lime trees in the Hampstead Conservation Area. These Limes are possibly 100 years old, perhaps planted when the boundary walls to the gardens here were built at the end of C19. Hampstead's trees are very important for many reasons and, from HNP Policy NE2

4.10 The main tree species that define our area include the taller limes, London planes, oaks, willows, black and Lombardy poplars, beech, horse chestnut and Scots pine, most of which take several decades to reach maturity.

The arboricultural report cites four reasons for felling these mature trees, three of them aesthetic or maintenance issues (honeydew, unsightly epicormic growth around the base of the trees and the need for regular pruning). These are characteristics common to most Limes and not strong justification for removing, otherwise we would have no Lime trees in Hampstead (lindens so far are not threatened with destructive pests and diseases like horse chestnut, elm, ash, oak, box etc. so are specially precious as mature trees).

The application states that there are plans to replace the trees with six others, but six small- to medium-sized trees will not reach a size equivalent to three mature lime trees, even in 20-30 years. Other trees on the site have already been lost recently including a large sycamore (2020/0595/T), a mature horse chestnut (2018/5548/T), a robinia (2018/5540/T) and a silver birch (2016/5775/T), with others further back in the 1990's. Removal of the horse chestnut, robinia and sycamore have also resulted in substantial loss of habitat: many trunk and branch holes providing shelter/homes, leguminous and non-leguminous flowers, pollen, invertebrates and much seed.

The fourth reason cited as justification for the felling is that the trees are pushing over a boundary wall; however, we cannot see from the application that this is the case or furthermore that the wall, when re-built, cannot accommodate future growth of the trees.

The limes will have been planted to do several jobs: helping with excess water in the area for a number of gardens around here as well as screening and pollution control which would have been very needed when they were planted as well as now.

We have a photo, that we would be happy to forward, taken from Prince Arthur Road where it is clear that they are very visible through a very wide gap (the group are centre stage above the grey boarding to the left of the house). Not only are they visible from the road, but would also be visible for the people who live, visit and work in Henderson Court. Many hundreds of people will see and appreciate these trees every day.

We urge Camden to refuse and place TPOs on all three lime trees.

Sincerely,

Janine Griffis
Chair, Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum