

**Subject:** FW: HGY/2022/2602

**Sent:** 10 October 2022 20:36

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HIGHGATE  
SOCIETY

10A South Grove, Highgate London N6 6BS

Dear Mr. Gunning,

**Sproughton, Courtenay Avenue, N6 4LR - HGY/2022/2602**

We have studied this application to fell a Lombardy Poplar protected by a Tree Preservation order, the reason given being that it is "causing significant structural damage to the property."

While the two photographs of the tree provided are not sufficiently clear to illustrate its significance in the local landscape, and the map provided likewise does not allow any assessment to be made of from how far away the tree is visible to other householders or from the public realm, it would appear to be a mature tree of some importance the loss of which would have an adverse visual impact. The application confirms that the tree is not diseased, nor that there are any concerns about it being liable to breakage or falling.

The remaining ten photographs appear to show only cracking and a degree of shifting of paving stones, and not of any "significant structural damage" to buildings.

Finally, though the application is to fell a protected tree,

(i) the question asking whether alleged damage to property is a reason for felling is ticked "No", contradicting the answer under "Identification of tree and description of works";

(ii) despite the form making clear that any such "application MUST be accompanied by the necessary evidence to support your proposals" if the reasons for felling include "alleged damage to property", no "necessary evidence" in the form of a report by an arboriculturist accompanies the documentation posted on the website, and

(iii) the question asking "are you wishing to carry out works to a tree in a Conservation Area" is ticked "No", despite the fact that the site is within the Bishops Subdivision of the Highgate Conservation Area, as investigation could easily have ascertained

It is therefore clear that the application cannot be considered further until the application form is correctly completed and "necessary evidence" supplied confirming that the damage is being caused by the tree. It is also clear that the application should not have been validated in its present form.

It is therefore important that your arboriculturist should visit the site as a matter of urgency and determine whether felling is an acceptable remedy for the damage illustrated in the photographs, or whether an alternative, less drastic, solution such as appropriate pruning, or simply repairing of the damage shown, would be more appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Michael Hammerson

for and on behalf of the Highgate Society Planning Working Group