

Subject: FW: Highgate School Tree Applications

Highgate Junior School, 3 Bishopswood Road, N6 4PL

We are concerned by this series of application both to fell and to severely cut back a series of trees all of which are on or near Metropolitan Open Land.

Highgate School SPD says

Objectives under policy 5.91 The Council will expect that as proposals are brought forward, the following will be considered and addressed as part of the assessment of landscape impact:

- conserve the landscape structure of mature trees and openness;
- improve the value of Nature Conservation across the School Estate;
- develop a sustainable and productive landscape within the School Estate;

These trees are all in areas where there have been or there are building works, yet these applications make no reference to either the building, or the work or the SPD. There are no proposals to plant replacement trees and there appears to be no overall management plan. Highgate School responded positively to a meeting of the major landowners in Highgate. They have agreed to work, together and independently, on various environmental issues. These include maintaining and establishing eco-corridors. These applications do not reflect such an approach.

We would ask the Tree Officer to contact the school's Head Gardener, Fred Duke, as a matter of some urgency in order to consider these proposals as a whole, in the context of previous tree works and with reference to their overall Tree Strategy. If there is no such strategy, we would ask that Highgate School work towards framing a Tree Strategy within an overall environmental and Climate change Strategy.

Louise Lewis
Highgate Neighbourhood Forum

HGY/2022/4100

T3695: Sycamore (15m): Fell due to necrosis at base

This tree is not shown in context. No other trees are marked along this edge of the field. There has been a history of felling and severe reduction of trees at Farfield, which has gradually altered the character of the Metropolitan Open Land. If the tree is felled, a replacement tree should be planted.

*CON/2019/0387 Inappropriate crown lifting of a row of trees
CON/2019/0303.*

CON/2018/0429 excessive pruning of T1: Lime:

T2: Oak: Reduce crown on building site by 2m

T3: Oak: Reduce crown on building site by 2m

T4: Oak: Reduce crown on building site by 2m

CON/2018/0208: T1: Cherry: Fell to ground level

CON/2018/0481: T178: Sycamore: Fell

HGY/2022/4111

Works as specified on Tree Survey to T3682: Sessile Oak (18m), T3684: Box Elder (10m) and T3685: Pissards Plum (5m)

T3684 is identified as 'unknown' in the Arb report. The tree officer should look at the application for the dining hall where this area was to be landscaped (conditioned) to see if it is appropriate to fell this tree. A suitable replacement tree should be planted if necessary.

HGY/2022/4102

T3690: Common Lime (20m) reduce crown by 5 - 6 metres

T3693: Holm Oak (17m) raise crown by 5 metres

Both these trees make a significant contribution to the street scene, which has been increasingly urbanised. Both crown reduction and crown raising are excessive.

HGY/2022/4101

Works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

Works as specified on Tree Survey to

T3660: Common Lime (20m),

T3661: Common Lime x 4 (15m),

T3662: Common Lime (25m),

T3663: Common Lime (25m),

T3664: Common Lime (25m),

T3679: Sycamore (18m), and

T3680: Common Lime (18m).

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This is a group of mature limes making an enormous contribution to the leafy character of the area. Such drastic reductions will dramatically reduce the visual amenity of the area. It will also reduce the screening of the proposed new build on this site. These trees should be maintained at their current heights.

HGY/2022/4105

Works as specified on Tree Survey to

T3665: Sycamore (9m), fell

T3669: Sycamore (18m), fell

T3670: Sycamore (17m), fell

T3671: Sycamore (18m), fell

T3672: Dead Tree (3m), fell

T3675: Sycamore (10m), fell

T3676: Common Ash (18m) fell

All these trees are in metropolitan Open Land and therefore should be given close scrutiny. Even T3672 should be left to encourage wildlife and bio-diversity.

Should the trees be felled, there should be a considered plan for replacing them in such a way as increases the bio-diversity and enriches the local ecology and environment.