

From: Planning Support
Subject: FW: HGY/2023/0827

Sent: 09 May 2023 22:09
Subject: Re: HGY/2023/0827

Further to my earlier objection of 21.04.23 I have had a chance to fully consider this application.

I am a local homeowner living opposite the oak tree being considered for removal (HGY/2023/0827).

I strongly object to the application to remove this oak tree in the Scout Park in Bounds Green.

My reasons are both specific to my situation as an immediate neighbour and wider society:

The tree has a TPO

The insurers state on the planning page that the effects to the house structure is 'slight'. The soil is clay and with the two summer droughts we have experienced, this is likely to be a significant factor in the subsidence. There are many factors that influence subsidence and these should be fully monitored and assessed by the council with independent experts.

The tree is quite a distance (18.5m) away from the house.

There are other proven methods to manage the risk of subsidence from trees such as tree pruning, crown reduction, root barriers, and adequate underpinning. These have not been carried out.

The Scout Association has objected to the removal of this tree and is willing to carry out tree management measures.

Further risk to other properties / the claimant's home: As a homeowner, I can appreciate the worry that the claimants will be experiencing. There is a risk of further damage to the soil and buildings from the removal of a large tree. The tree was there before the house was built, which adds to the risk of increased instability of the ground (heave). I am concerned about potential heave affecting the claimant and other neighbouring houses if the tree is felled.

There is extensive waterlogging in the area and in the Scout Park, causing considerable problems for the council, for residents and the Scout Park. Trees provide vital structure to the soil to improve drainage and reduce surface runoff.

An oak tree provides habitat for over 2,300 species of life providing a vital wildlife resource and is a critical source of CO₂ carbon capture. It takes 156 new trees to replace one mature Oak tree.

We carried out a bat survey on several evenings between 4th and 7th May which showed numerous bats from at least three species of bats directly by the tree, and we have identified bat roost potential in the tree. We have provided our recordings and photos as evidence to Haringey Council and ask that an official bat survey is conducted as they are legally protected in the UK.

We are in a climate and ecological emergency and Haringey Council announced a climate emergency in 2019 and has pledged to increase canopy cover by 30%.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news/tough-action-pipeline-protect-mature-trees>

Mike Hakata has said "With each passing year the climate and biodiversity emergencies become increasingly urgent. We are determined to take huge steps to reduce carbon with an ambitious

and transformational programme which will make our borough one of the greenest in the capital".

Young people, Scouts, and our community in general, need trees for wellbeing and mental health. This mature tree reduces air pollution, provides irreplaceable shade and cools the surrounding area, which is really important in increasingly hot summers.

I understand that the Haringey tree department can carry out its own reports and series of monitorings (public meeting July 2022).

The UK is one of the only countries which routinely fells trees for insurance claims. I support the Council taking a stand on this issue and encourage better dialogue with insurers. Please sign up to the Joint Mitigation Protocol as other London Boroughs have already done, to work with insurers, landowners and experts more constructively on these kinds of claims.

I ask that you carry out an official bat survey, conduct full independent ground monitoring and reports, arrange for an independent arborist report, ask the insurers to fully evaluate previous underpinning done, and thoroughly assess the wide range of proven alternative options available to manage subsidence.

Sincerely

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