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17 April 2024

Haringey reference: HGY/2024/0119

*Daniel Monk Senior Arboricultural Officer (Planning)*

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Dear Mr Monk,

My wife and I own 19 Clarence Road N22 8PG where the Eucalyptus and Leylandii mentioned in the correspondence for the above reference are on our property.

My wife and I would like to convey in writing our preferred outcome, which is that the Eucalyptus would remain albeit be reduced in size.

We also would not wish any damage to our neighbours property as we have excellent relationships with them.

The current situation is that, although it is not our preference, my wife and I have agreed to the removal of the Eucalyptus providing the leylandii is also removed. We have also endeavoured to act in a courteous and constructive way with all parties.

Background:

We have lived in the property for twenty years and at some point prior to our arrival the main trunk snapped off in a storm at approximately 5ft high, damaging the garages at the rear. Since then the tree has recovered and I believe the tree has many years to live but is now in slow decline as there is significant rot in the centre of the original main trunk.

We have regularly maintained its size, improving its shape, in order to prevent further damage. The last tree surgery work was Jan 2023.

This tree is valued for its evergreen screening of the flats at the rear of our property, its architectural structure and its emotional value to us as our place of sanctuary during lockdown.

Importantly, in my inexpert opinion, the eucalyptus supports the leylandii which is c.8ft taller than the eucalyptus and 'top heavy' i.e. few lower branches. My fear is that the removal of the Eucalyptus would leave the leylandii at risk of blowing down in a storm causing further damage to adjacent properties.

I believe it may be possible to reduce the tree significantly and retain all of the benefits.

Unfortunately I do not feel I have the expertise to challenge the report regarding root damage, or the financial resources to fight a legal battle, but it may be of relevance that:

Eucalyptus roots were discovered under our neighbours property, but it was unclear as to whether these roots were our tree's or a E. Nympholia that was in an adjacent garden less than 5m away from the test area. This tree was removed early 2023. I understand the tests cannot differentiate the variety, but I wonder if further testing could tell if the roots were alive or dead. if so dead roots would indicate they were from either the removed E. Nympholia, or root dieback from our tree that had been significantly reduced?

We would like to invite you to take our opinions into account and would be happy to host a site visit if you feel it would be useful.

I look forward to your reply,

Kind Regards

Alastair Sadler

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