

Save The Lime Tree



Dear Neighbour,

Many of you will enjoy the visual amenity of the 19th century lime tree which stands in Northumberland Street North-West Lane within a Conservation Area. The tree is healthy, stable and has a future life expectancy of up to 50 years.

The community's continued enjoyment of this magnificent tree is now threatened by a planning application (reference **13/03480/FUL & 13/03481/LBC**) to build a mews house on the parking area adjacent to 14 Northumberland Street NW Lane.

Building within a couple of metres of the tree trunk will damage the root system and will require severe lopping of major boughs.

According to a recent report on the tree by an expert arboriculturalist, these operations would adversely affect its health and stability. Put starkly, they could kill the tree, or damage it so severely that it would have to be felled.

BS5837: 2012 "Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction" offers recommendations on best practice which have been adopted by all local authorities in Scotland. Building a dwelling so close to a mature tree such as this lime would be unsupportable in terms of this Standard.

ACTION

If you value the lime tree and do not want to lose it, you can submit your comments on the planning applications

EITHER online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/planningcomments (you will need to register to do this)

OR by post to David Leslie, Acting Head of Planning and Building Standards, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8 BG

You may find the attached sheet useful when framing your comments on the applications. It lays out the planning policies against which the applications will be judged, and indicates the key points for representations to the Planning Department. If you decide to draw on these points your comments should be expressed in your own words drawing on your reading of the relevant policies (**not by lifting text wholesale**). Individuals will place different emphasis on different aspects of the matter and this should come across in any comments submitted.

SEPARATELY a TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) was applied for on 28th August 2013 to try to increase the degree of protection for the tree, and to raise its profile with the Planning Department.

You can express your specific support for the TPO by contacting the Arboricultural Officer in the Planning Department: steven.milne@edinburgh.gov.uk

THE DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS IS

23 SEPTEMBER 2013