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09 FEB 2017

LEGAL SERVICES

Director of Law (Ref: DH/30104338)
Legal Services
3rd Floor
Kensington Town Hall
Horton Street
London
W8 7NX

8th February 2017

Dear Mr Shawkat

REF: DH/30104338

Sycamore Tree: 21 Castellain Road . London. W9 1EY

Further to your recent correspondence in regard to the above tree and the preservation order placed upon it I should like to comment.

My husband and I have lived in our property for some thirty years. Our bedrooms and those of our family face on the garden of 21 Castellain Road and we all love and enjoy this magnificent Sycamore tree which has been here much longer than any of us. There are so few trees left in the gardens and this great example of its type provides a much needed and welcome snap-shot of nature, softens and enhances the neighbouring buildings and aesthetically enhances the area.

We have long enjoyed its changes throughout the seasons. Apart from the obvious health benefits that all trees produce, this tree also provides a habitat for small birds, bees, butterflies and squirrels encouraging them to the area and it rewards us, importantly, with much needed privacy from being over looked from the homes behind our house. When in full bloom is truly beautiful and it reduces neighbours light pollution and muffles noise as the wind passes through its leafy bough.

I am sure the new home owners of the development at 21 Castellain Road, (along with their neighbours next door at No. 23 who have put in an extended basement and concrete garden) don't want to deal with the leaf drop and they may well have complained it encourages pigeons – which I can tell you it most definitely does not; pigeons do not nest in this tree. However, should we be lucky enough to get the occasional one cooing together with the restful sound of little birds twittering, the delightful sounds of nature that this tree allows are an enjoyable respite to the back drop of relentless city noise.

We were saddened that the council allowed the owners to remove the other tree in the garden despite our previous objections. PLEASE preserve this tree so that ALL dwellers in this immediate urban environment can look out of their windows and see a small part of nature at its best.

Yours sincerely

Lisa & John Schneider