

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

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LEGAL SERVICES

6th February 2017

**Ref: City of Westminster Preservation Order 634
21 Castellain Road, London W9 1EY**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to make a formal appeal against the Tree Preservation Order in respect of 21 Castellain Road London W9 1EY issued on 12th January 2017.

We are aware that you have made the Order because you feel the tree makes a valuable contribution to public amenity, to the outlook from nearby properties and to the character and appearance of the conservation area.

We totally support the idea that some trees are protected. However, in the case of this Sycamore tree which stands over 30 meters high in the rear garden of a tiny back yard overshadowing the neighbours' properties, the single reason you cite is questionable.

The Sycamore tree is simply too large for the 9 meter square garden. It blocks light and is in an inappropriate position. This species of tree is both unsuitable and wrong for its location. Furthermore it is situated far too close to the buildings. Over the years as the tree has grown it has caused damage to the buildings' structural foundations, garden walls and neighbouring property.

It offers no amenity to the community whatsoever. The tree is so tall and constrained within the spot that it resembles a large totem pole/telegraph pole. It cannot be seen from the road and does not form any part of the vistas on which the conservation area was designated.

The enormous size of a sycamore tree makes it impractical for the average home landscape, but they make great shade trees in parks, along stream banks and in other open areas. They were once used as street trees, but they create a lot of litter and the invasive roots damage footpaths.

In addition the tree harbours large populations of pigeons which themselves pose a health risk with commonly Psittacosis, but also Salmonella, Histoplasmosis, Cryptococcosis, Candidiasis and other parasites.

Many problems are associated with sycamore trees. It's fairly messy, shedding a generous supply of leaves, seed balls, twigs and strips of bark. The tiny hairs on the seed balls irritate skin and can cause respiratory distress if inhaled by sensitive people. The hairs shed in spring and can irritate eyes, the respiratory tract and skin. A sycamore's spreading roots often infiltrate water and sewer lines and damage paths and paved areas.

I am strongly in favour of replanting with a tree to ensure continuity of natural visual amenity with a species suitable for the location.

I would be grateful if you could consider my appeal to this TPO and I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you in advance with your help with this matter,

Yours sincerely

Luke and Liza Johnson