

# Epsom Civic Society

formerly Epsom Protection Society

shaping the future, safeguarding the past

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Jeremy Young (Case Officer)  
Epsom Planning Dept  
The Town Hall  
Epsom

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Dear Jeremy

Ref Planning Application 20/00613/CAT    OBJECTION

The Epsom Civic Society (ECS) objects to the proposed felling of the three trees within the grounds of The Sycamore Centre in West Hill, Epsom. The site is situated within the Stamford Green Conservation Area and is owned by Surrey County Council. We understand from the listed correspondence that Epsom Council could make a Tree Preservation Order for the three trees.

The Stamford Green Conservation Area Appraisal October 2007 states in the introduction 'The Stamford Green CA is a truly special place' ... 'It is our duty as Local Planning Authority to ensure, in our decision-making, that its special character is not only preserved but, wherever possible, enhanced'. We strongly suggest that the proposed felling of these trees does not in any way enhance the character of this delightful CA.

There is no evidence within the application documents that any of the trees are diseased or are unsafe. The only obvious reason for their removal can be that they are 'in the way' of a proposed development for the overall Sycamore Centre site. The owners (SCC) could insist that the trees are incorporated into any future scheme for the site. When so many of our Surrey ash trees are suffering from ash dieback it would be a crime to fell the remaining healthy trees !



We also note that within the current Local Plan (Policy CS1) the Council expects any development and use of land to contribute positively to the environment. Changes should protect and enhance the natural and built environments of the Borough and should achieve high quality sustainable environments for the present and future.

We therefore suggest that this application by SCC is refused and that a Tree Preservation Order is applied immediately for all three trees.

Yours Sincerely

Bob Hollis (On behalf Of The Epsom Civic Society)



