

4(ii)(b)

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

COUNCIL – 28 JUNE 2006

**REPORT BY THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR
PLANNING POLICY, HOUSING POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION**

**RESPONSE TO PETITION FROM THE OAKLEY STREET RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION ON REPLACEMENT AND PLANTING OF TREES IN
OAKLEY STREET, S.W.3.**

This report provides information for Members on action taken following the petition presented to the Council requesting the replacement and planting of trees in Oakley Street, S.W.3.

FOR INFORMATION

1. BACKGROUND

The prayer of the petition said:

“We the signatories of the following statement: Concerned at the recent rapid loss of distinctive mature trees in the street as a result of decay; recalling that the famous Victorian developer of part of the street, Dr. Phene, recognised and promoted trees in the streets on amenity and health grounds; urgently request that the conservation streetscape be maintained with fresh tree planting; further, noting that some possible pavement planting sites have hitherto been considered unsuitable by reason of cellars and cabling; and that planting in the highway has been successful elsewhere; request that, in addition to planting where practicable in the pavements, some planting may be done in the highway of Oakley Street; while recognising that this may require a small reduction in parking bays; and have resolved that the Association is prepared to contribute to the cost of fresh trees.”

2. ACTION

- 2.1 Following receipt of this petition, consultation was carried out with the Principal Arboriculturist. He confirmed that he had extensive conversations with residents of Oakley Street and with Cremorne and Royal Hospital Ward Councillors.
- 2.2 Two mature Robinias were removed because they were extremely dangerous. It appears that even when residents saw the badly decayed stump, they still considered it an unnecessary felling
- 2.3 With regard to planting replacements, the first tree had its roots wrapped around British Telecommunications' cables and one of the Arboriculturists spent several days with a chisel chipping away so that the paving could be simply re-paved. There is no opportunity for a replacement tree to be planted. We may be able to replace the second tree, but, at this stage, it cannot be guaranteed; the Arboriculturists will investigate over the summer and, if possible, a replacement tree will be planted in the next planting season.
- 2.4 Oakley Street is a mass of cellars and cables, and the whole street has been thoroughly investigated for planting positions; this exercise has been unsuccessful.
- 2.5 It was suggested that consideration be given to creating build-outs in the road to enable planting to take place. This option would involve loss of parking spaces, create further visual clutter and be inconsistent with the architectural heritage of Oakley Street.
3. In summary, one of the lost trees may be replaced; this will be investigated, but with regard to the kerb build-outs, this could not be recommended due to cost and visual disturbance.

FOR INFORMATION

**COUNCILLOR DANIEL MOYLAN,
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY,
HOUSING POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION**