

Appendix 1: Responses received for “Portland Road – New trees in carriageway traffic islands” consultation

Object – One (via letter)

I write in the most vehement of terms to oppose such a ridiculous idea. I assume you have counted the number of mature trees presently in the road...7 on the side and 5 on commercial side. [REDACTED] has a fully grown Magnolia tree [REDACTED] to add to the immediate. oxygen levels.

Portland Road is not like Arundel Gardens which was totally tree less until several years ago. The number of residential car users far outweighs the number of spaces currently available and the number of non-residential car users exasperates the current problems with shoppers using the Holland Park shops and North Kensington residents parking close to the Underground to travel to work daily.

The added loss of 2 spaces outside the N6 restaurant creates endless months of outside seating which also takes away valuable space

Your sketch showing 12 spaces does not allow any manoeuvring space for large Land Rover / Defender /Chelsea Tractors which proliferate the area these days and the idea of 5 traffic islands is a complete nonstarter. Seeing how many times a year the traffic island and kerbs have to be repaired opposite [REDACTED] (approximately 9 a year) on the corner of Ladbroke Road/Portland Road should be a pointer to this crazy thought with cars bumping into them ?

Given that neither of the local Councillors live or understand the parking needs of the Immediate locality and acting on the whim of one woke/green minded individual ..we cannot understand why the Council are prepared to waste rate payers' money on such a senseless and costly venture whilst the present mid road parking set up is currently serving a valuable and necessary local amenity.

If the area was devoid of trees, then you have a case to examine BUT this is clearly not the case.

Hoping the Council see my reasoning to be rational.

Object - One follow-up (via email)

I was amazed to see that you had put your name to the idiotic tree planting idea which RBK&C have come up with to neutralise the limited amount of car parking already in the central stretch of Portland Road This short-sighted idea is the whim of a recently arrived green minded neighbour and one which has little or no advantage to the residents who must contend daily with the flow of shoppers visiting the local Holland Park shops and the steady flow of residents outside the area who commute daily from Holland Park station

How can you support such a scheme given that you don't live anywhere near the problem and are not able to witness the permanent daily parking problems.

In this immediate stretch of road there are 12 mature trees plus a large magnolia tree [REDACTED] which produces a great amount of oxygen. There is an island road sign which gets knocked down every so often [REDACTED] which is exactly what will happen if 5 island units with saplings are planted in the central reservation as proposed.

We have already lost several spaces to electric recharging units plus several spaces for 9 months of the year to the local Number 6 restaurant.

The plan which the RBK&C traffic engineers have produced has stated 12 spaces in total, per 4 sections. There is only space for 12 cars (normal size) now. It will be impossible to park 12 cars between the proposed 5 trees .

Bearing in mind how badly people park, it is highly likely that only 1 car (especially large Range rovers etc) will be able to park between the Islands/trees.

I trust you will consider the above facts and adjust your decision accordingly and oppose this proposal.

Object - Two

- 1.1 Explain why do you wish to spend money on planting more trees in an area of RBK&C full of parks with trees and roads - Holland Park Avenue/Portland Road/Ladbroke Road - already full of mature pavement trees?
- 1.2 This end of Portland Road is awash with planted shrubs, small trees and plants along the north side. Why would you choose further to clutter the area with more trees?
2. What variety of trees do you propose? No details in your proposals.
3. You state the proposals will take up to around six metres, ie one space, of residents' parking (important for senior citizens living in the area). Given the length (and breadth) of cars today, please re-look at your calculations - I believe three spaces is more accurate.
4. Five new trees on islands will attract hired bicycles randomly left for pick up, rubbish, etc.
5. The traffic island at the junction of Ladbroke Road/Portland Road indicating a two-way road is regularly knocked down by large vehicles attempting to negotiate the island. Why not spend the proposed funds on a better designed island with a tree if you wish, not requiring RBK&C maintenance on a very regular basis?
6. I have photographs illustrating points 1.2, 4 and 5 - but cannot include them in this objection. Please contact me for further information.

Object – Three

This is a mad proposal for very little utility. Parking is bad enough without removing yet more of it for residents of Portland Rd. There is barely enough for the residents let alone those coming and parking to go to neighbouring shops. Cannot think who came up with this virus signalling idea to the inconvenience of residents.

Object – Four

There are plenty of trees and we can't do without the car parking spaces.

Object – Five

I am [REDACTED] of the CCRA Committee..we are actively engaged in increasing as much greenery as possible on our roads but RBKC must consider who will maintain these trees and pay for them..we had great difficulty in getting maintenance and support of the olive trees and plant base areas at the North end of Portland Road at Clarendon Cross -we succeeded eventually -and surrounding areas. But if we as the Committee had not persisted it would not have happened.

The trees up and down Ladbroke Road need more maintenance at the base of the trees which sprout and are not pruned so dog owners allow their dogs to do their business there and then throw back their plastic doggy bags into the base of the trees. Similar Holland Park Avenue. Does this mean that RBKC will increase their tree department budget ?

1) If you are suggesting we only lose 1 resident parking space, I'm not sure how 5 x 2m trees each taking up 1 car space can be accommodated? We have already lost parking spaces to outdoor eating spaces of Restaurant No 6 and others. These are very pleasant areas but are they permanent and remain during the winter months?

2) There are never enough parking spaces in this part of the road...because of shoppers who come to the shops along Holland Park Avenue/Portland road and Clarendon Road... Have the retailers been approached for their opinions? Would they agree? Has Danny Lidgate /Lidgates representing the retailers been approached for comment ? They are already up against it due to increased parking charges, lack of parking spaces, and the ongoing pressure from the Mayor of London who is determined to turn HPA into a single lane highway with huge bike lanes alone either side. Increased rents and Council tax..How long can our retailers survive in these circumstances...we have too many empty shops already. We need the local shops, quality outlets not more chains that don't last & supermarkets.

3) In this time of the increased cost of living, why are you suggesting expenditure which is neither vital or necessary ? We do need to beautify our local areas but please consider: HPA is grubby, dirty, broken or damaged paving stones, rubbish all over the pavement/sacks waiting to be collected, overflowing rubbish bins, pavement bikers, .. Could we consider cleaning up these areas before spending money on new projects that are neither necessary nor urgent.

Passers-by will use these planting areas to dump their empty food packages/plastic containers & fag ends...will RBKC's gardener come by to maintain these plant areas or the rubbish people regularly remove this rubbish? Obviously we need more bins...

Your resident has done a wonderful job planting and maintaining beautiful pots and flowers outside the shops on this part of Ladbroke Terrace/Portland Road and I understand that he would like to look out from his office upon lovely trees but ...

Object – Six

Whilst fine in principle there are already trees in this road.

There is already pressure on parking with cars being left by commuters not within our area.

This will also impact on existing shops.

Object – Seven

Parking in this area is already poor and the loss of any space is to be avoided We already have plenty of trees and we do not need any more a totally unwanted initiative that will annoy all car owners of whom we are one

Object – Eight

Reduction of light to residents . Reduction of already diminished very expensive residents parking, which is heavily used by motorists parking to use tube and for shopping Unnecessary use of taxpayers money in an already populated tree area. These trees will need care and expensive pruning when mature when money is needed for more urgent use.

Object – Eight (via letter)

We wish to make clear that as Freeholders of [REDACTED] we are 100% against the completely impractical and expensive idea of planting 5 trees down the centre of our end of the road. We already have 12 mature trees in a very short part of our residential/commercial area, so to plant another 5 is firstly undesirable for residents and car owners, and secondly not necessary environmentally. It will disrupt the parking facilities and create more mess with yet more falling leaves, which are treacherous in wet weather.

We pay a large amount for Residents Parking Permits and the spaces are forever being restricted with No 6 Restaurant taking spaces for outside dining in the summer, electric charges being installed, etc. You state that only one space will be lost, this is clearly nonsense if you take into account trying to park around trees and traffic islands, with 2 way traffic on each side and the fact that significantly larger cars and trucks now crowd our streets.

We are frustrated by residents from other parts of the Borough arriving at 8 am to park all day in order to use the tube, together with many visitors coming here to park in order to shop here and NHG, so to reduce the parking does not take your residents into consideration.

As Council Tax payers we feel it a waste of money which would be better spent elsewhere by sweeping the leaves and keeping the area free from the large amount of commercial rubbish and litter frequently dumped on our pavements.

This misconceived plan will spoil the street by crowding the open space and reducing the sunlight to the residents, we therefore vigorously oppose this wasteful and unnecessary plan.

Object – Nine

Overall, I'm in favour of planting more trees so I'm surprising myself by saying no. However, this plan is going to reduce parking in the road and that's got harder over the years. I suspect this is partly to do with cars getting bigger and partly to do with Julie's having reopened.

We are lucky in as much as the area proposed for the new planting already has several trees so I don't feel it's a priority. I wonder if it would be better to introduce more electric charging points, although I realise this probably comes from different funds.

Object – Ten

I have two grounds for not supporting the proposal - one visual, the other practical.

Visually, once the trees are mature, they will effectively cut the street in half, so that one wide street will become two narrow streets. The 1871 Ordnance Survey map shows that the original developers, who were keen on tree planting, did not plant trees in the middle of the road, but planted many trees in the pavement.

My second objection is practical. Although the proposal says that only one car parking space will be lost, in practice people park very badly, and it is easily foreseeable that each of the four new bays will in fact take only two cars rather than the three envisaged. When this is added to the loss of bays outside No 6 in the summer, the loss is too great.

Object – Eleven

We are concerned about the loss of parking. There is huge challenges currently running a small independent business and every negative action to vital roads will have a knock-on effect to the local small businesses.

Support in part – One

I think to plant more trees is a good idea and environmentally sound, but if it takes away a parking spaces that are much needed close to the shops where everyone has to park to visit them in this area it should be amended so that the parking space can stay. Perhaps plant 3 trees, not 5, to allow for this to happen.

Support in part – Two

I like the ideas of more trees and that is a wider street.

Trees start small and grow large. These are being planted in an area surrounded by tarmac. Water will naturally drain off - into the small planting area but mainly down the drains. So the trees will not benefit unlike those in one's garden from rain going down through soil into the roots.

We see trees in pavements in small holes. Over time - and not very much time 5-10 years - the roots start pushing up the pavement slabs - partially to reach more water but also because the soil elsewhere ie under the paving slabs is over compacted. The same will happen here with the tarmac being mis-shapen and cracking.

I think 5 trees in such a small area is far too many - 3 would be plenty. 5 would put enormous strain on the root systems.

Support in part – Three

I'm supportive and live directly adjacent to where one tree will be planted. I think it's generally a good initiative and will beautify this end of the road. However, there is a shortage of parking for those who live on this end of the road because commuters from North Kensington park here to access the Holland Park station. So it deprives us who are truly local. So I would request that when you plant the trees that you substitute one or two pay parking slots with council parking spaces. Finally, I'd avoid London plane trees as they're too messy.

Support in part – Four

I often require short term parking when visiting my doctor and the local shops. The loss of a few resident parking spaces may on occasions require me to walk further, an increasing challenge to me and my wife as time progresses

Support in part – Five

Why does Portland Rd which already has a lot of greenery justify these trees when we up in Notting Hill Gate are living in hell. Notting Hill Gate now looks like the South Circular. Endless works with huge traffic at a standstill with perpetual hooting. Mostly ghastly shops. We are now having to live through years of the tower block development on corner of Ken Church St. Bikes left all over the pavements. Cyclists riding on pavements. Pavement space on exits of tube station clogged up with bikes/litter bins/map posts leaving very little space for the hordes of visitors exiting for Portobello. We have not seen any Community Policemen for years. For a main artery into Central London it is all very depressing!

Support in part – Six

I think this is a good idea but I feel five is too many given the number of other trees along this stretch of road either side - once established in years to come the tree cover will become too dense and could make the pavements either side of the road rather dark. 3 trees would be better spread out to alternate with the existing ones.

Support in part – Seven

Could you identify an additional parking space nearby to replace the one that will be lost in the new proposal?

Support in part – Eight

I support the planting of three trees, not five. Five trees takes away too much parking. And please not plane trees that grow so tall but smaller colourful street trees. Maybe cherry trees?

Support – One

In my opinion an avenue of trees in the centre of the road will significantly improve the appearance of the street. Alongside the plants and pots that already decorate the shopping parade and the trees outside the houses opposite, this third line of trees would create a truly green streetscape.

The trees would also introduce attractive breaks in the long line of cars we presently have and help to better separate the residential side of Portland road from the retail shops opposite.

Obviously the trees will also bring environmental benefits. Trees are a wonderful means of controlling urban heat and the tree pits would also serve a dual purpose, acting as soakaways and improving drainage in the street.

The benefits vastly outweigh the loss of one single parking bay

Support – Two

Great idea

Support – Three

I absolutely support the introduction of more trees onto Portland Road. I really hope other residents understand how improved this section of Portland Road will be and with only one parking space lost. The greener a city can be the better on so many levels.

Support – Four

The trees will benefit the local environment for residents, visitors and wildlife.

Support – Five

I support all elements of the proposal. Planting the trees will transform the road and improve its appearance which will benefit the businesses, restaurants and residents. This proposal stood out to me as a sensible but impactful improvement and carries little risk in comparison to the benefit it will provide. I would be surprised by any resistance towards this proposal, especially the short sighted view that it will reduce parking capacity by one space.

Support – Six

[No comment]

Support – Seven

[No comment]

Support – Eight

This proposed planting of new trees is welcome and long overdue.

I have lived and worked here for nearly 50 years. During that time I have witnessed the Council's reckless felling of many of the road's venerable mature trees as well as savage, inconsiderate lopping of others, without any consultation with residents. Where replacements have been planted, they are the meanest of saplings that will take many years to make a significant impact.

Let's hope new plantings will be sufficiently mature and attractive specimens so they effectively enhance the streetscape and justify the effort.

Support – Nine

Important that the trees are planted as nature as possible to avoid vandalism

Support – Ten

More trees is good for the environment as well as enhancing it

Support – Eleven

[No comment]

Support – Twelve

i think this will add a lovely natural element to the street and enhance the experience of living here — there is significant traffic using the road as a thoroughfare and i hope eventually the trees will dampen that noise

Support – Thirteen

Trees provide many benefits including noise reduction, pollution reduction cation and are aesthetically pleasing.

Support – Fourteen

Great investment in nature and our neighbourhood- softening the hard edges of city life.

Support – Fifteen

Yes, a nice plan which would enhance the street.

I am wondering which trees would be planted- and presumably ones which are limited in size when they reach full height?

Support – Sixteen

[No comment]

Support – Seventeen

[No comment]

Support – Eighteen

Excellent idea.

Support – Nineteen

What a wonderful, inspired plan - please do more of this!

Support – Twenty

Will make a huge addition to the views of the road from both ends and complements the softer pedestrian feel of the southern end of the road .

Support – Twenty-one

Lovely idea to increase nature and doesn't sound like it will cause much inconvenience. Please please please add more electric parking options!

Support – Twenty-two

Great idea and will work well with the space where the shops have made a huge effort to enhance the spacer on the pavement side.

Support – Twenty-three

Great idea

Support – Twenty-four

[No comment]

Support – Twenty-five

This is absolutely a great idea!

Support – Twenty-six

Trees are a necessary part of urban life!

Support – Twenty-seven

These trees are good environmentally, aesthetically and have minimal impact on parking.

Support – Twenty-eight

This will be an aesthetic improvement and also better for the environment.

Support – Twenty-nine

[No comment]

Support – Thirty

Excellent idea

Support – Thirty-one

[No comment]

Support – Thirty-two

Fantastic idea. It gets my full support.

Support – Thirty-three

Strongly support this initiative.

Support – Thirty-four

[No comment]

Support – Thirty-five

I am in favour of all measures to improve greening and environmental amenities

Support – Thirty-six

This looks like a great idea to beautify our street

Support – Thirty-seven

I support the proposal as additional trees on the traffic island would be an improvement on the current landscape.
The introduction of more trees on Portland Rd would help with the busy traffic noise and polluting fumes of Holland Park Avenue.

Support – Thirty-eight

[No comment]

Support – Thirty-nine

I think it would look great, and bring some much needed greenery to the area.
Good for improvement in air quality.
Losing 1 parking space is not a big deal as there is more than enough space on the road for cars, and in general a reduction in driving would be great for the environment too.

Support – Forty

Excellent idea! There's heaps of parking along Portland Road, but far too few trees. I fully support this plan

Support – Forty-one

[No comment]

Support – Forty-two

Wonderful plan! The fewer the cars on the road and the greater the trees on the road the better a Portland Road we'll have. All in favour!

Support – Forty-three

Support retaining and planting new trees across the borough. This is a good proposal with minimal downside to parking, and there is generally sufficient parking in the road for residents and visitors.

Support – Forty-four

Anything that improves the general amenity of the area gets our support

Support – Forty-five

I think they would make the street more attractive and do not agree that we will lose parking spaces

Support – Forty-six

I fully support the proposal. It will significantly improve the appearance of our street and add some much needed trees.

Support – Forty-seven

Very good proposal and a good start for a potential wider transformation of this end of the street! To support businesses on Portland Rd and on neighboring Holland Park Av, and for residents in the area and their children, more ambitious plans should be considered, including a pedestrian and cycling zone at this end of Portland Rd, the removal of most parking and the establishment of a regular market (just some ideas!) More trees should also be planted, there would be even space for a little public playpark. Worth thinking about!

Support – Forty-eight

[No comment]

Support – Forty-nine

[No comment]

Support – Fifty

These trees would be a perfect compliment to this lovely road.

Support – Fifty-one

[No comment]

Support – Fifty-two

[No comment]

Support – Fifty-three

More trees are a very good idea. Good for physical health, mental health, wildlife - and property prices. I often visit and think the area would be greatly enhanced.

Support – Fifty-four

I am massively in favour of all new tree planting in the borough. We need trees to absorb pollution and we need to move beyond car use in the city. I am a cyclist.

Support – Fifty-five

[No comment]

Support – Fifty-six

I think this proposal will enhance the locality.

Support – Fifty-seven

Trees are an integral part of the local area. It is a welcome proposal to increase the amount of greenery. The road is double width at this point and well suited to having more trees. Thank you.

Support – Fifty-eight

This change will enhance the street's aesthetics and help manage heat and pollution in the summer. Additionally, it aligns with broader goals for creating a greener environment.

This can all be done with an extremely small sacrifice of a parking spot.

ENDS