

# Waterlow Park Trees and Views Group

Notes from meeting on 4th March 2022 - David Houghton DH / Oliver Jones OJ / Gabi Howard GH / Ian Henghes IH / April Cameron AC / Helen Rapley HR

The meeting was held to review the latest proposal from the Trees and Views Group 'Maintaining a View of St Paul's Proposal October 2021 approved' and the subsequent Arboricultural Impact Assessment; 'AIA The View of St Pauls Cathedral v2'

Photo mock-ups of the view with the proposed works carried out were also provided from the album at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zs1gVb5vLLycE43l2> Notably <https://photos.app.goo.gl/zs1gVb5vLLycE43l2> (current view on new sight-line) <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GLVyd3BBNhESGvWz8> (potential view on new sight-line)

A discussion was held which recapped previous iterations of proposals including one which involved work to the Dawn Redwood by the lower pond. This has been previously discounted as the tree is very visible and would be noticeably misshapen by any works.

Walking along the path in front of Sir Sydney from the upper pond end towards the North Shelter despite the hazy conditions it was possible to see how the view would be impacted by the height reduction proposed to the lime tree. At different positions new vistas towards the financial district of the City of London and the Barbican would be opened.

The location identified on the October proposal as providing a potential new sight-line of St Paul's is at a new bench at the end of the row at the North Shelter end. It was seen that lower branches of a foreground tree would need to be removed for the view to be opened as well as work on the lime.

DH warned that the degree of work proposed could potentially result in the demise of the lime. Lime trees tend not to be harmed by some pollarding, as long as a regular maintenance regime is followed. More limited work to the lime was discussed as preferable from an arboricultural standpoint, but would not have the desired effect on the view. OJ said that a public consultation would be necessary to show there was broad support for work of this kind to a tree for the purposes of opening views. It was felt that such an exercise might be carried out later this year. Before then some work on the lower branches of the foreground tree might be undertaken so that it was easier for the public to understand how the potential view behind might be revealed.

There was also some discussion of the European Beech tree by Lauderdale House which has been cut back due to disease and is now unbalanced with a significant original limb over Highgate Hill whereas the Park side has been heavily pollarded. A couple of smaller off-cut branches are still stuck in a holly bush which need removing. The tree may not survive and will need close monitoring.

A tree survey is due to be carried out to inspect the whole park this year.