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FAX MESSAGE	
TO	DAS
FROM	GSM
SUBJECT	Pre-Inquiry Meeting
DATE	28th September 1993

The Pre-Inquiry Meeting took place this morning as planned and lasted some two hours. Quite a lot of time was spent dealing with technicalities and the expected length of the hearing. It is proposed that the site meeting will take place on Monday, 29th November and the hearing will start at 10.00 am on 30th November sitting from 10.00 to 1.00 and 2.00 to 5.00 each day with the exception of Wednesday and Friday. On Wednesday afternoon the Inquiry will sit from 6.30 to 8.30 or 9.00 pm to enable evidence to be given when members of the public are not able to come during the day. On Friday there will be no afternoon sitting. A reserve was also made for the Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week, 7th and 8th December. Inquiries generally do not sit on a Monday.

The Inspector is a town planner and hardly seemed able to control a riot. He almost welcomed evidence on virtually everything under the sun and did not at any stage say that he would restrict evidence to planning matters. Because we will have to give evidence as to need, he obviously will hear evidence as to lack of need but he also seemed prepared to hear evidence on anything else. The Council's Counsel attended. He is clearly the Rumpole of the Planning Bar - very florid, partial I suspect to more than the odd gin and tonic and more concerned to hear his own mellifluous tones than the prosaic words of the Inspector. All in all, I prefer the touch of Steel.

Much attention was given to the plans, which do not seem to be complete. The Inspector wants to know where each post will go and wants a sample of the post preferably held in place in Wildwood Road and possibly elsewhere on the date of the site visit. Graham Murdoch is liaising with Alan Perrin in this respect.

Philip Kossoff attended, representing 34 residents and a Mrs. Foster attended, representing the Barnet Eruv Objectors Group, "some 3000 objectors across the Borough". They are instructing Counsel and it is

possible they will merge with Kossoff's group. They propose bringing as many frontagers as possible as objectors with evidence on matters such as view from windows, etc.

So far as other members of the public are concerned, there was a Cecil Lush representing Mrs. Popper, who Laurence thinks is one of "the Holocaust Survivors". Lush made a very important point with regard to Farm Avenue. He claimed that if the poles need a foundation, we will have to excavate under his client's land or if the pole is moved further into the street, it will cause an obstruction.

Michael Max and Edmund Dell (an ex Labour Cabinet Minister) attended from the Suburb on their own behalf. Norman Burgess attended on the behalf of the Finchley Society, representing 900 members who proposed objecting on planning grounds only.

Most important of all, there was a Montague Miller and a Mr. Shepherd questioning our authenticity as a United Synagogue Eruv Committee. I attach a copy of Miller's letter and a copy of a letter I have faxed today to Jonathan Lew.

Julian Czarny and Eva Greenspan attended and were both very helpful. Eva Greenspan still wants to give evidence.

Subject to John Steel's advice, I came to the conclusion that I believe our key witness should be a real heavyweight such as Lord Jakobovits. He will speak with authority on the background, history and need with all the weight of a member of the Upper Chamber, respected in the Conservative Party and throughout the country. He also happens to be in his retirement "a minister" taking a regular service at the Hendon Synagogue and can personally give evidence as to the local need. Possibly we also need another United Synagogue witness to deal with points that the objectors seem to be making about some United Synagogue members not wanting the Eruv. I can still be held in reserve but having seen the parade today, I do feel this would be the better course. We can still consider Eva Greenspan who claims that she should be giving evidence because another Councillor will be giving evidence for the other side! There may be some point in this.



Graham