

There is a core group of opponents each with a different agenda and none with genuine planning objections who have made common cause.

Councillor Frank Davis

Campaigner. Started as Socialist; then changed name to Frank Liberal Davis so that ballot paper would read: DAVIS, Frank Liberal; then became Tory.

Long history of activity for Jewish and Israeli causes

Fought fascist antisemites in fist fights in Cable Street age 15

Opposed bar on Jewish membership at Finchley Golf Club

Served on Board of Deputies' Jewish Defence Committee

Set up own bus charter company in protest against London Transport service

Governor of Tel Aviv University

Opposition, expressed in June 1992 at briefing by Eruv Committee to Public Works & Planning Committees, based on 'possible movement of more orthodox Jews into the Suburb'.

Write-in campaign generated many letters to FD

FD complained to Board of Deputies and United Synagogue against 'pressure'

In telephone conversation between David Schreiber & FD, Friday 26th June 1992, FD confirmed support for the Eruv. It was clear that FD was torn between inclination to fight with us for Jewish cause and pressure to side with Roy Shutz and other assimilated Jews and Lord McGregor and co. He raised no planning objections at all. He appeared to welcome with some relief my call to join our cause.

Letter hand delivered to FD 26/6/92¹, Rabbi Jackson spoke from text supplied by DS and posters put up in Synagogue. FD did not contradict outcome in any way.

I believe that FD assumed we would lose in Public Works and his promise would not be called.

After the PW decision in July and faced with his commitment to us but also pressure from Roy Shutz and others, FD tried a number of ruses to avoid the proposal coming to TP&R

Together with Lord McGregor, he tried to have the application called in for Public Inquiry²

To have the proposal thrown out on technical grounds, eg lack of proper notice - rejected by Max Caller, Chief Executive of Barnet Council³

Eruv Committee was accused of bribing Public Works⁴. Accusation was thrown out.

Questioned Barnet's legal right to licence the Eruv⁵

He requested that the matter be immediately referred to the full Council

In November 1992, Lord Jakobovits sent a request for a private meeting with FD which was ignored.⁶

1 Letters and Poster

2 Ham&High 2 Oct 92

3 Ham&High 23 Oct 92

4 Ham&High 8 Dec 92

5 Ham&High 31 Dec 92

6 letter to FD, dated 18 Nov 92 from Jeremy Hershkorn

At TP&R meeting, Frank Davis opened by referring to Eruv as that "Four letter word". In putting his planning objections, he stated that there is no existing street furniture in Wildwood Road and that therefore the Eruv would be an unacceptable precedent. Others hooked their objection on this. For example, Councillor Victor Lyon quoted FD saying that he would have no objection other than the Wildwood Road situation - and voted against.

We were later told by an outraged councillor that the night before the TP&R meeting, Victor Lyon had been promised the Mayorship by Roy Shutz, if he voted against.

Gerald Isaaman, *Editor/General Manager of Ham&High*

Lifelong friend of Frank Davis

Meeting with Edward Black and DS in January 1993 to discuss our complaint about editorial bias of the Ham&High following 'Vigilante' story.⁷

DS pointed out that story was based on discredited evidence and sub-headline 'Alarm in Suburb' was totally unfounded and mischievously self-fulfilling. GI response:

"Listen, boy. I managed to escape from the ghetto of Stanford Hill when I was a teenager and establish myself in Hampstead where no-one knew where I came from and it was cosmopolitan. I'm not going to allow you and your sort to come along and put a wire around me!"

H&H story was picked up without checking by the Guardian⁸ and unquestionably a large number of Suburb residents were justifiably alarmed by story.

Response to a number of further incidents of misleading reporting was a taunt to refer the matter to the Press Complaints Commission, on which GI sits and which is chaired by his friend, Lord McG. eg

Story to discredit petition⁹¹⁰

Story that major Israeli town of Ramat Gan has no Eruv.

I was called hours before deadline and asked to respond to quote from Deputy Mayor of Ramat Gan, which is twinned with Barnet, who was quoted as saying that there is no eruv in the town. I explained that he is not observant, that there has been an eruv there for at least 30 years and the fact that he is not aware of it just shows how innocuous it is. Reporter still threatened to run story as "Major Israeli Town Doesn't Even Have Eruv" quoting the Deputy Mayor and mentioning my comment. We managed to get the Chief Rabbi of Ramat Gan on the line for the Ham&High who offered to fax map and details. I requested that the story be run anyway to show precisely that an eruv can be in existence for 30 years and those who don't need it don't even know of its existence. GI refused claiming 'editorial discretion'.

Lord McGregor, *Chairman Press Complaints Commission*

Lives in Wyldes Close, off Wildwood Road

Long known and monitored for anti-semitism

See letter from David Bogush, ex-HGS Trust Councillor

7 Ham&High 15 Jan 92
8 Guardian 16 Jan 92
9 Letter DS to GI, 13 Jan 93 and
10 Fax to Mathew Lewin, Dep Editor, 17 Feb 93

History of Lord McG's window gives lie to concern for strict local planning issues. The compulsory leaded lights had apparently already been removed when he bought his house. His fellow councillors had repeatedly requested that he restore windows and he refused. When the HGS Trust Supervisor visited Lord McG's home and formally requested restoration, he was threatened with sacking.

Note Lord McG refers in his proof to existing vandalism of Wyldes Close road sign so Eruv cannot be represented as cause.

Christopher Kellerman, *HGS Trust Manager*

Initial reaction incorrectly assumed 'hundreds of poles in Suburb' and was reported in Ham&High as "**Jewish Border Poles 'will spoil the Suburb'**"¹¹

See letter of objection

Michael Max, *Former Councillor and Chairman of HGS Institute*

Coined term 'divisive' in relation to Eruv, quoting South African Apartheid experience, carried by Ham&High!¹²

Roy Shutz, *Tory leader of the Council*

Meeting with Laurence Begner and DS in Town Hall office

Confirmed that even if the eruv could be established with no construction at all, like Strasbourg, he would oppose it because "it would give a benefit to a minority group".

Norma Blausten, *President HGS Tories*

"More orthodox people in the area will upset the social balance"¹³

11 Ham&High 12 June 92
12 Ham&High 9 Oct 92
13 Ham&High 26 Nov 93



Special Announcement to residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb

In response to the many letters sent to Councillor Frank Davis as part of the Write-In campaign from Norrice Lea, Councillor Davis has asked us to inform residents of the Suburb that he has carefully considered the Eruv proposal and that he will support it.

Councillor Davis wishes to point out to residents that he has no vote on the Public Works Committee which meets on the 30th. June but that if and when the matter reaches the Town Planning & Research Committee, on which he sits, he will vote in favour.

Councillor Davis wishes to thank everybody for expressing their views to him and is proud to be associated with this community initiative.

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee would like to thank everybody at Norrice Lea for backing the campaign and publicly express our appreciation and respect for Councillor Davis' statement.

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV COMMITTEE

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE
ERUV COMMITTEE

9 WEST HEATH ROAD LONDON NW3 7UX
TEL (071) 433 3434 FAX (071) 433 3934



Councillor Frank Davis
20 Connaught Drive
London NW1 6BJ

26th. June, 1992

Dear Councillor Davis,

Further to our telephone conversation this afternoon and your generous expression of support for the Eruv, I confirm that I have arranged for the attached poster to be displayed in Norrice Lea and have asked the Rabbi to make suitable reference to the matter.

I am sorry that our conversation became a little heated and apologise if I was in any way discourteous. It did however serve to expose the basic misunderstanding that had arisen and I sense we were both a little relieved to have cleared the air properly.

It was most heartening to learn of your willingness to support this very important initiative and to have your commitment to vote in favour, if and when the proposal reaches the Town Planning & Research Committee.

I have no doubt at all that a very large number of local people, including young mothers, handicapped people and the elderly, will admire you for your stand on their behalf and appreciate it.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

David Schreiber

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 Jerusalem Israel 93 117 ירושלים
 Tel (INT+972 2) 619445 טלפון
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Councillor Frank Davis JP
 20 Connaught Drive
 London NW11 6BJ

16th. October, 1992

As I will be staying in Israel for the next week or so, I did not want to delay responding to your letter of the 11th. October.

You are clearly upset about recent events in the Suburb and some comments by Rabbi Kimche, although these were not directed at you. I am a bit confused by your reference to our contact in July and perhaps your feelings have now blurred your recollection of our discussion at that time.

For good order let me therefore just run over the main points, although as you pointed out, our discussion was recorded at the time, so there is no room for doubt between ourselves or any other party.

You were unhappy about the large mailbag you were receiving from Suburb residents anxious to impress on you their need for the *eruv*. You felt that it was a pressure on you - and indeed is that not the democratic system that you champion at work, wherein, thank God, people can express their feelings directly to those who represent them. However you complained to various people, including the United Synagogue management, who passed on your concerns to me.

We spoke on the phone on Friday 26th. June at 3:50pm and you explained that you were very unhappy that people were writing to you and asking you to support the *eruv* and that they assumed that you were on the Public Works Committee. After some discussion on this point, we resolved that your position was that you had no objection to the *eruv* as such but wanted it made clear to Suburb residents in general and members of Norrice Lea in particular, that you were **not** involved with Public Works but that you undertook to vote in favour when the proposal came before the Town Planning & Research Committee on which you sit. Let me remind you that this

was not under any pressure - quite to the contrary you asked me whether I could possibly arrange for Rabbi Jackson to so inform the community that Shabbos and I promised to try. (And I did!)

Frank, you have obviously been a very prominent and respected member of the Jewish community and strongly identified with Jewish causes and Israel over the years. I understand that you are now under real pressure from fellow suburb councillors and others but am convinced that you would not want to spoil such a proud record at this stage by breaking your public promise to hundreds of your fellow residents. They, of course, will not stand for such an about-face and I have no doubt at all that your recorded commitment would be made public. Frank, there is very strong feeling out there that you are bowing to pressure from people who really *are* anti-semitic. Clearly neither you nor any of the 'objectors' have any real problem with the *eruv* as, indeed, you confirmed in our conversation on the 26th. so people will draw their own conclusions. I would hate to see that happen as it would ruin a proud record.

Far from being 'hysterical', my letter of the 26th. properly recorded the conclusion of our conversation, the announcement was made in shul the next day by Rabbi Jackson and posters were put up exactly as agreed with you. With this as a matter of record, you are going to look awfully silly claiming to the press that you were too nauseated to respond!

For various reasons, it really is time for you to stand up and be counted and maintain the courage of your convictions in the face of pressure from Shutz, McGregor and others who are using you for their own agenda.

In order to be clear between us, I do require an unequivocal statement of your support and an undertaking that you will cease and desist from your behind-the-scenes opposition. You will have the ongoing support of people who care for you and appreciate your integrity and commitment to the community. In the absence of such a stand on your part, I have no doubt that the matter will be fully exposed and will then be out of both of our hands.

Edison Lee
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01877 388818

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE EXPRESS

Ham & High

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1992

HAMPSTEAD
& HIGHGATE
LEADING
INDEPENDENT
ESTATE AGENT

**Benham
& Reeves**



Derrick Jones receives his campaign medals from Major-General Carleton-Smith.

Medals at last for Derrick

Derrick Jones has at last received his war medals with ceremony after he came home.

Mr Jones, who lives in Gospel Oak, and fought a hard battle against cancer for a week. They were presented by Major-General Carleton-Smith, who lives in Gospel Oak, and fought a hard battle against cancer for a week. They were presented by Major-General Carleton-Smith, who lives in Gospel Oak, and fought a hard battle against cancer for a week.

was told that army records showed he was "dead and buried". A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence told the Ham & High that the medals had been posted to him in 1979. They never arrived.

Mr Jones finally received them last Thursday at a ceremony following a performance in his honour of Memories of Childhood at the Lilian Baylis Theatre, Roschery.

unusual to have them so late," he added, pinning on the '39-'45 Star, the Africa Star, the Italy Star, the Defence Medal, and finally the Victory Medal.

Mr Jones said the medals were worth waiting for. "It's a matter of knowing that the War Office were wrong, because they said I was dead," he said.

McGregor steps up pressure on eruv

LORD McGregor, the former chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, is considering asking the Government to take over the United Synagogue's controversial eruv planning application.

The United Synagogue wants to designate the Suburb, Golders Green and Hendon as an eruv, a symbolically enclosed area within which Jewish Sabbath rules can be relaxed to allow the use of wheelchairs and prams and other activities otherwise forbidden on Saturdays.

Most of the boundaries for the proposed eruv already exist, such as roads, but an application has been made to Barnet to erect poles so the gaps can be spanned with thin wire.

Orthodox lobbyists forced Lord McGregor to resign as chairman of the Suburb Trust at the organisation's annual meeting last week amid a row over a letter sent by the Trust to Barnet raising concerns about the eruv.

Lord McGregor, who is chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, confirmed this week that he was considering asking for a public enquiry. "I am at the moment looking at the possibilities of action that may now be taken," he said.

He did not know if the department of the environment had the powers to take the application out of Barnet's hands, but he was making inquiries about that possibility. "I feel strongly about it because I think that the imposition of an eruv is wrong in principle and could have potentially very damaging consequences in providing a focal point of divisiveness in the Hampstead Garden Suburb."

Frank Davis, councillor for the Suburb, said: "If it is a fact that the DoE have the power to call the matter in, that is to say remove the matter from Barnet's jurisdiction, it would certainly relieve the intense pressure being put upon many councillors."

A DoE spokesman said the Environment Secretary had the power to call in any planning application if there was a reason for it. This usually happened if an application had more than local significance or if it touched on an area where national planning policy needed to be determined.

Following the uproar over its comments, the Trust has sent a second letter to Barnet stating that the Trust does not oppose the eruv plans, but fears the proposed poles between Wildwood Rise and Wyldes Close might be unsightly and not be in keeping in an outstanding conservation area. It was also concerned there might be practical problems over the maintenance of the poles and their connecting wires.

"We recognise a potential divisiveness which has already begun to surround the proposal to place an eruv boundary on the south side of Wildwood Road," the new letter adds.

● See page 80.

Police fears for missing children

DETECTIVES have launched an international hunt to track down a missing child.

Sergeant Kevin O'Shea, of the Albany Street Child Protection

when officers from Camden Council tried to serve a notice on a

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HAMSTEAD & HIGHGATE EXPRESS

Ham & High

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1992

Barnet planners deny breaking law over eruv

BARNET has been accused of breaking planning laws for not giving residents enough time to comment on the United Synagogue's application to create a symbolically enclosed area or "eruv" for Orthodox Jews.

The United Synagogue has applied to Barnet for planning consent to span gaps in the eruv — bounded mostly by roads — with poles and wire. Within the eruv, enclosing Golders Green, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Hendon, Sabbath restrictions would be relaxed.

The council took out newspaper adverts to publicise the application in August, giving residents three weeks to comment.

But Suburb councillor Frank Davis said Barnet had acted unlawfully under the newly-amended Town and Country Planning Act. "In setting a closing date of September 18 they gave the impression that no objections could be received after that date. That is quite wrong."

Chief planner Geoff Brown wrote to Mr Davis telling him he had set that date for convenience. "Why is this member of staff in such a hurry, since the application can't be before the town planning committees until December?" asked Mr Davis.

Mr Brown told the Ham & High

that councils faced a legal requirement to give people 21 days to comment, and said that Barnet had written 129 letters to residents who would have poles very close to their homes.

But Mr Davis was appalled that only 129 letters were sent out when, according to the official list, the application included 99 poles. "One might have thought this was to avoid too many objections," he said.

Barnet's chief executive, Max Catter, said: "We are content that we have fulfilled the spirit and the letter of the law."

addison lee
MINICABS
387 8888

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE EXPRES

Ham & High

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1992

HAMPSTEAD
& HIGHGATE'S
LEADING
INDEPENDENT
ESTATE AGENT

Benham
& Reeves

Ombudsman probes eruv complaint

A RESIDENT whose front garden could become part of the controversial "eruv" has prompted an investigation by the local government ombudsman of an alleged "gift" to Barnet by the eruv committee of the United Synagogue.

Ombudsman Dr David Yardley is investigating after a letter from a resident raised the question of whether a gift to the council from the committee might sway the decision in their favour.

A council report said staff and resource costs committed to considering the eruv had been "dealt with" by the gift. "The acceptance of the gift might have introduced bias, albeit unconsciously, in favour of the proposal," said the resident's letter.

The council has refused to disclose details of the gift, which is mentioned in a report to the public works committee.

Dr Yardley would not discuss the case before his investigations were complete. He said: "I am concerned with the process whereby an application is considered. If at any stage I am persuaded that there has been some fault in the administrative procedure, then I will say so."

The resident's letter also complained that eruv committee representatives were given the opportunity to present their case to councillors while residents were not. There was no evidence to

substantiate the claim that the eruv would benefit 10,000 people, it added.

The United Synagogue has applied to erect telegraph-type poles to create the symbolically enclosed area covering Hampstead Garden Suburb, Golders Green and Hendon.

Within the boundaries, Sabbath laws could be relaxed to allow the pushing of prams and wheelchairs. Consent was given by Barnet's public works committee in June but a final decision is due from the planning committee on January 20.

The letter to the ombudsman said that the principle at issue was the eruv's public recognition by the erection of physical boundaries on public land. "This could be conceptually offensive to Barnet residents, Jewish as well as non-Jewish."

Letters to Barnet in support of the plan could only have come from followers of the eruv committee as they were sent when the council had not issued public notices, it added.

The resident, whose house would form part of the eruv boundary, said: "If I had the money, I would seek an injunction against the council proceeding until the constitutional aspect has been decided. They are claiming my front garden as part of the eruv and I oppose the eruv in every way."

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addison lee
MINICABS

387 8888

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE EXPRESS

Ham & High

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1992

HAMPSTEAD
& HIGHGATE'S
LEADING
INDEPENDENT
ESTATE AGENT

Benham
& Reeves

Fresh element in eruv legal tangle

BARNET does not have the legal right to license an eruv because of the number of privately owned roads in the proposed area, Barnet councillor Frank Davis has claimed.

The United Synagogue has applied to the council for planning permission to erect posts to create an eruv, or symbolically enclosed area, covering Hampstead Garden Suburb, Golders Green and Hendon. Religious law within the boundary can be relaxed to allow Orthodox Jews to push wheelchairs and prams on the Sabbath.

But Mr Davis has pointed out that there are 25 roads and 24 open spaces owned by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust within the proposed eruv.

In June the public works committee gave consent for wires to be erected over the public highway, subject to "all necessary approvals and consents being obtained".

Mr Davis believes, however, that the committee may have acted beyond its powers. "It might seem that the borough does not have the power to lease or license private streets and open spaces to

a third party without consent. No such consent has been sought."

The council's planning committee is due to make the final decision on January 20.

Mr Davis also said the existence of a number of allotments within the boundary could mean that Orthodox Jews could not take advantage of the eruv. He noted that religious law prohibits the inclusion of any cultivated area larger than 200ft by 100ft. "No-one will use the eruv even if they do get consent, unless they break their own rules," he said.

"I know that I have been named as an opponent, but I think it is essential that the Jewish community is aware of all the problems that exist and have yet to be overcome," he said. "As a result there is a great deal of hype regarding the eruv, without the possibility of creating it even being in sight. I do hope that the public is not being conned."

Alan Perrin, technical adviser to the United Synagogue's eruv committee, said he could not comment on what Barnet could and could not do. He admitted that the existence of a cultivated area

within an eruv could be a problem. "I don't think we would proceed with our application if there were a basis in Jewish law that would invalidate the whole thing. There are many aspects which would invalidate it and we believe we have coped with all of them."

Mr Davis told the Ham & High that he had been sent a Chanukah card bearing a skull and crossbones and anti-Semitic slogans.

He said he had no doubt that it was prompted by the eruv application. "The very thing that I warned about is now taking place. Anti-Semitic literature is being distributed to members of the Jewish community."

Mr Davis said he was surprised to read in the eruv application advertisement in the Ham & High earlier this month that an eruv could be declared for "persons of the Jewish faith".

"This is misleading since that comment relates only to some members of the United Synagogue and is vehemently disputed by the majority of the Jewish community. The town planning employees responsible for the advertisement..."

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31 Litchfield Way
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Telephone Number: 071-491 4729 (Office)
081-458 7736 (Home)

18th November 1992

Councillor Frank Davis
20, Connaught Drive
London NW11 6BJ

Dear Councillor Davis

Proposal to the Barnet Council for the Construction
of the Hendon and Golders Green Eruv

I refer to my previous correspondence and to our discussions regarding the above matter.

I have been asked to write to you and Councillor Shutz by the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jacobovits, who would like to meet with both of you to discuss various matters relating to the above and the way this will affect the community as a whole.

I am informed by Lord Jacobovits's personal secretary that he would currently be available to have a meeting with you on any of the following dates:-

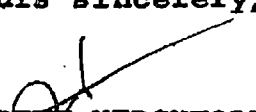
14th, 16th, 17th, 21st, 22nd or 23rd December 1992.

Accordingly, I would be grateful if you would please telephone me on receipt of this letter with those dates which are convenient to both of you whereupon I will make arrangements for an appropriate time and venue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,


JEREMY HERSHKORN

Jewish zealots: We'll patrol eruv

AN EXTREMIST Jewish organisation — possibly linked to groups known for taking violent action — could be planning to set up a vigilante group to protect the proposed eruv, a document leaked to the Ham & High this week has revealed.

Minutes of a meeting in December of the British Section of the Kahane Defence Group refer to the organisation's decision to set up a "low-profile" vigilante group to protect the proposed eruv boundary.

Alarm in Suburb as extremist plan is revealed

And, the minutes record, "if malice would continue, tougher action would be taken after consultation with the Jewish Defence League in New York".

The name of the organisation suggests a link with the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of Israel's outlawed extremist Kach party.

The document identifies people present at the meeting only by initials. It mentions a discussion that included "D.E." and a member of the "E. committee" — under-

stood to refer to the United Synagogue's eruv committee.

But eruv committee chairman David Schreiber denied any such connection. "It sounds like you have got a spoof. Neither myself nor anyone to my knowledge has had such a discussion, nor would it be anything that we would encourage. We are not worried about vandalism."

The eruv committee has applied to Barnet to erect posts linked with wire to mark the boundary of

an eruv, or symbolically enclosed area. It would take in parts of Hampstead Garden Suburb, Golders Green and Hendon.

Religious law within the boundary can be relaxed to allow Orthodox Jews to push wheelchairs and prams on the Sabbath.

The document mentions discussion of the legal implications of vigilante action "A.H.D." is recorded as having argued that since the eruv would have council approval, anyone attempting to

damage the "poles or strings" would be acting against the law — making the vigilantes "upholders of the law".

The meeting, held at the house of "A.H.D.", decided to form a low-profile vigilante group, irrespective of the opinion of the eruv committee.

The document, which contains grammatical and spelling errors, says tougher action would be taken if malice continued, after consulting "J.D.L. in HQ/NY".

J.D.L. appears to be the Jewish Defence League, which is linked to Kach, the extreme-right Israeli party led by Rabbi Meir Kahane until his assassination two years ago. Israel outlawed Kach because of its racist policies against Arabs and Palestinians.

Chris Kellerman, manager of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, said the document showed how divisive the eruv had become.

"This is what the trust said right at the very beginning. Private vigilante groups patrolling could be extremely provocative."

To back page

Eruv patrols

~J From page 1

Hendon South MP John Marshall said he was not convinced the document was accurate. "I can't believe that the individuals in support of the eruv are supportive of Kahane, whose policies were such that he was banned from standing as a candidate in Israel's election by the Supreme Court in Israel."

Michael Whine, a spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, told the Ham & High: "My initial reaction is to say it might be a hoax. Attempts were made to establish a Jewish Defence League here two years ago but they foundered due to lack of interest."

Sergeant Bernard Forbes of Golders Green police said the document had been passed to Special Branch. "They think it is a hoax. We are not going to permit vigilantes. We never have and we never will," he said.

● The date for a decision by Barnet on the eruv application has been postponed until February 24 because the Department of Transport has not approved the erection of poles and wires on roads it controls.

Aspects of the application passed to the DTP relate to the North Circular, the A1, Hendon Way and Finchley Road, Child's Hill.

A Jewish couple from Child's Hill, who do not want to be named, say they will have to move if Barnet gives permission for the eruv.

In a letter to Barnet the couple said that, as humanists, the fact that some of the poles would be visible from their windows would be "psychologically intolerable".

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4 HOME NEWS

THE GUARDIAN
Saturday January 16 1993

Vigilante fear in proposed London 'community domain'

Jewish tensions rise over plan for 'ghetto'

David Sharrock

TENSION was rising in Britain's largest Jewish community yesterday over plans to create an *eruv*, or symbolically enclosed area, as fears grew that extremists plan to set up vigilante groups in the community.

Divisions within the 20,000-strong Jewish community in the borough of Barnet, north London, have been deepening for three months over a proposal by the United Synagogue — the orthodox wing of British Judaism — to create an *eruv* covering seven square miles of Golders Green, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Hendon.

The *eruv* — which would need more than 80 poles linked with wire around the area "to be symbolically indicated as gateways" — would permit the relaxation of religious law, allowing orthodox Jews to carry personal items like keys, gloves and handkerchiefs on the sabbath.

The *eruv* committee's proposal to Barnet council, which

will decide next month whether to allow it, describes its purpose as "to define the entire area within the boundary as one community domain".

The plan is opposed by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, dedicated to preserving the architectural integrity of the district.

In September, Lord McGregor, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, was forced to resign as the trust's chairman at an annual general meeting said to be packed with orthodox groups.

Many non-orthodox Jews in the area oppose the plan, fearing it may create a ghetto mentality. And although two-thirds of residents in the proposed *eruv* are non-Jewish, they are said to be reluctant to object for fear of anti-semitic accusations.

A document leaked to the Hampstead and Highgate Express, reveals plans for an extremist Jewish organisation to set up a vigilante group to protect the *eruv* boundary. Minutes of a meeting of the "British section" of the Kahana Defence Group read: "If malice would

continue, tougher action would be taken after consultation with the Jewish Defence League in New York."

The name of the JDL organisation is linked to Kach, the extreme-right Israeli party banned there because of its racist policies against Arabs and Palestinians.

Roy Shutz, leader of Tory-controlled Barnet and an opponent of the *eruv*, said it was being proposed by a small, unrepresentative group. "I have received many letters from concerned people, some of them saying they are Jews who fled here during the war, and this is the last thing they want to see."

"One letter makes the point that in the past Jews have been forced into ghettos and now they seem to want to live in one of their own making." He described the document, which police have passed to the Special Branch, as "alarming".

Eruv committee members could not be contacted last night but local newspaper reports quote its chairman, David Schreiber, calling the document a hoax.

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THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE
ERUV COMMITTEE

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UNITED SYNAGOGUE

Mr. Gerald Isaaman
The General Editor
HAM&HIGH
by fax

13th January, 1993

Dear Mr. Isaaman,

I write to you following a telephone conversation with Nicky Bolster. She was asking for comment on a document apparently referring to a meeting between some vigilante group and this committee. I made it clear to her, and I wish to make it clear to you, that there is no truth in the suggestion of such a meeting. I would certainly be aware of any such contact. I have not met with such a group, I have not heard of them nor do I condone what they purport to plan.

Furthermore, I believe that reporting this type of suggestion is only likely to plant ideas where they do not presently exist in the minds of potential vandals and as such is irresponsible. I trust it will therefore be ignored by your paper.

Yours sincerely,

David Schreiber

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE
ERUV COMMITTEE



Mathew Lewin
by fax

17th February 1993

Dear Mathew,

Following our telephone conversation a little while ago, I find myself once again needing to put my position on record to the Ham&High.

You asked me to comment on an allegation by somebody that about half of the signatures on the pro-eruv petition were from outside the borough. I explained to you that was a malicious and untrue suggestion. I personally have checked each and every page of the petition and my staff have been through it too, analysing the signatures ward by ward. Whilst we are only human and we may have overlooked or misread some and I would always allow for an error rate of 1 or 2%, I totally reject the allegation.

Furthermore and more important, I feel that perhaps I failed to convey to you my dismay that the Ham&High were once again about to allow themselves to be manipulated. You said to me that if you run the allegation you will quote our denial and that that is 'fair' journalism and that if both sides are shouting at you you can't be far off the right course.

The fact is, and I suspect that your publication knows this only too well, that some opponents of the eruv have exploited this 'fair' journalism only too cynically. 'Somebody' makes an outrageous allegation. You admit that you cannot check it out but you are willing to consider publishing it, nay - you feel obliged to, along with a denial, knowing full well that in the minds of your readers this will plant serious doubt - after all there's no smoke without fire etc.

9 WEST HEATH ROAD LONDON NW3 7UX

TEL 071-433 3434 FAX 071-433 3934

Committee

Laurence Begner, Brian Berenblut, Edward Black, Joe Bloomberg, David Cohen, Daniel Drukarz, Jeremy Hershkorn, Michael Goldblatt, Michael Posen, David Schreiber, Syma Weinberg

Rabbinic Panel

Rabbi Isaac Bernstein (Finchley), Dayan Ivan Binstock (Golders Green), Rabbi Edward Jackson (Hampstead Garden Suburb), Rabbi Alan Kimche (Ner Yisrael), Rabbi Sidney Silber (Hendon)

Supervisory Authority

Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks and the London Beth Din

Technical Officer

Alan Perrin B.Sc.

On this particular issue I have further explained to you that the petition was delivered to Barnet deliberately in time for them to be able to vet it.

I have no doubt at all that this type of 'fair' journalism has significantly contributed to distrust, division and unnecessary anxiety among the general population, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. I cannot understand how you can live with the ethical ramifications of the stance of the Ham&High and best instanced by the *Jewish Zealots - Alarm in Suburb* headline. That unsupported headline caused alarm where non previously existed. The story, of course, has proven to be unfounded.

It remains my belief and conviction that in pursuing this policy, the paper has wittingly fanned the issue - perhaps to sell papers and/or to satisfy the personal agendas of a very small group of individuals and in so doing has caused the very 'divisiveness' and alarm that it reported. As I explained when Mr Isaaman pointed to the letters he received expressing alarm, this is 'self-fulfilling' reporting - you report it this week and by next week it's true!

Sincerely,

David Schreiber

12 JUNE 92

Jewish border poles 'will spoil Suburb'

PLANS to put up 21-foot poles in Hampstead Garden Suburb to mark the area within which orthodox Jews are allowed to carry anything on the Sabbath will spoil the area, says the Suburb Trust.

According to orthodox Jewish law strict observers are not allowed to carry anything on the Sabbath in a public place — not even, for example, a medicine bottle or handkerchief. The poles and linking wire will mark out and enlarge the private domain or "eruv" in which the ruling does not apply.

The United Synagogue has applied to Barnet Council for planning permission to create an enclosed area of 6.5 square miles with an 11-mile perimeter, taking in Golders Green, parts of the Suburb and Cricklewood and all of Hendon.

Some cities in the US, Israel, Australia, South Africa and Europe already have such arrangements for their Jewish communities.

Trust manager Chris Kellerman has called for public consultation on the proposal and asked the United Synagogue for more information on how many poles it plans to put up and their siting.

"In the Suburb there are numerous open spaces, cul-de-sacs and woods,

Sabbath law defined by boundary

and to circumvent the whole area with the number of poles required could run into hundreds," he said in a letter.

While the perimeter of the eruv would follow some existing boundaries such as railway embankments, motorway barriers and the frontages of houses, the gaps would have to be symbolically indicated. This would be done by erecting two poles and spanning the area in between with wire — a method for which planning consent is required from Barnet.

Mr Kellerman said he did not think the committee had thought its proposals through. "I think people who live in the Suburb ought to be consulted about it. I would suggest that they hold a public meeting. I think we need much more information. Jewish people I have spoken to are very much against it."

He pointed out that the two poles

marking the Woodlands Close eruv, in Golders Green, which was approved by Barnet two years ago, were not well maintained.

Alan Perrin, technical adviser to the United Synagogue's eruv committee, said he thought it was up to Barnet's planning officers to decide who should be informed of the application. He did not think any of the posts would be in the trust area, but said Mr Kellerman could approach Barnet and look at the plans.

In a written plea to councillors, the eruv committee claimed that more than 10,000 people would benefit significantly and that no-one would be inconvenienced. "There will be a minority group within the Jewish community that does not feel the need for this remedy and, on the other extreme, an ultra-orthodox element who choose not to take advantage of it."

Councillors were also told that the wire would be virtually invisible at the proposed height of 21ft and that the poles would be set at the back of pavements and be less intrusive than existing street furniture.

Hendon South MP John Marshall has stated his support for the proposed scheme.

Residents told to complain about bin men

HAMPSTEAD Garden Suburb residents have been urged to "complain and complain and complain" about the standard of the refuse collection service of Tyler Waste Management, Barnet Council's private contractor.

At last week's residents' association meeting, chairwoman Eileen Whelan said there were so many complaints that the RA should produce a standard complaint form.

"The only thing that works is to complain and complain and complain. And if we send in these forms then we can clock up a number of complaints and make Tyler lose the contract," she said.

The RA felt that at present Tyler did not understand the idiosyncracies of the Suburb. Miss Whelan added: "Some sort of work study should be done by Tyler so it can understand the area."

One complaint was that the refuse collectors were inconsistent, and while some teams would take extra rubbish, others refused. The area around Mikiholm has had particular problems.

But Michael Steward, Tyler's managing director, said that his firm was performing successfully to the contract drawn up by Barnet.

"The residents are complaining because they are putting out extra rubbish which is not going in the bins provid-

ed. If the rubbish was in the bins it would have been picked up," he said.

Mr Steward suggested that the residents go back to Barnet and try and get the specifications of the contract altered if they wanted loose bags of rubbish collected.

● Burglar alarms ringing incessantly in the Suburb, sometimes going on for up to 24 hours, will be subject to greater controls under a Barnet Council initiative, the RA heard.

As from July 1 all new burglar alarms in Barnet will have to be fitted with a 20 minute cut-off device. From January 1, 1993, every alarm will have to have the device and the key-holder's name will have to be registered with the police.

The police will also be given powers to break in to houses where alarms ring for longer than two minutes.

● Dark green wastebins rather than the present bright yellow ones are to be installed in the Suburb on a trial basis. The RA awaits the comments of residents.

● A suggestion by a Suburb sculptress that the RA funds the erection of a statue by her in Central Square was met with a lukewarm response at its meeting last week. The life statue was offered for the cost of casting, which was estimated at £1,000 to £5,000.

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ACKGROUND TO ERUV DISPUTE THAT HAS DIVIDED A COMMUNITY

Religious plan tha sparked a bitter row

Suburb 'must avert division'

THE UNITED Synagogue has applied to Barnet for permission to erect telegraph-pole type poles around the borough to mark the boundary of a symbolically enclosed area, or eruv, with which Sabbath laws are relaxed to ease Orthodox Jews to push prams and pushchairs.

The scheme, which takes in Golders Green, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Hendon, was agreed by Barnet's public works committee the end of June. It is to be considered by the central area planning committee later this month. The final decision is due to be made by the town planning and ward committee in November.

Most of the proposed eruv boundaries are natural, such as roads, but the poles are needed so that gaps can be spanned

with thin wire to form symbolic gateways.

Dissent over the application, which had been brewing for some time, erupted at the annual meeting of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust last month.

Chairman Lord McGregor was forced to resign amid a furious row over a Trust letter to Barnet raising concerns about the eruv.

Following the meeting Lord McGregor, who lives in Wyldes Close close to the site proposed for several poles in Wildwood Road on the Hampstead Heath extension, said he felt the Government should take over the controversial application. He feared an eruv could have potentially damaging consequences in providing a focal point of divisiveness in the Suburb.

THOSE who propose the eruv should recognise the deep concern the plan is causing and find another way of achieving their objective, says former Hampstead Garden Suburb councillor Michael Marx.

"After all, the whole idea has been invented by man and they could find another way of solving their problems," said Mr Marx, who chairs the Suburb Institute.

"The size of the area and the way in which the problem is solved, namely by a small piece of nylon thread, lead to incredulity and difficulty in understanding."

"Somebody from South Africa said to me that he had left that country to avoid the sort of division between black and white being imposed by the Afrikaners and he finds it objectionable here."

Like Frank Davis, who currently represents the Suburb on Barnet Council, Mr Marx also expressed fears about an article, submitted by Norrice Lea Synagogue for the autumn edition of the Suburb

residents' association newspaper Suburb News.

The article said the eruv would encourage young people to come to the Suburb, providing life blood for the future.

"I think many people will see that as indicating a wish on the part of the promoters of the eruv to reduce the desirable mix that we have at present. I think integration is more important than division," said Mr Marx, stressing this was a personal view that had nothing to do with his position at the Institute.

"My sense of history tells me that physical boundaries create other sorts of boundaries and I think that they are divisive. Many sincere non-Jewish people feel that they can't express themselves properly because their objections may be taken to be anti-Semitic and that is something which is an anathema to them."

Pettion warns of hostility

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB residents have set the Ham & High a 20-signature petition expressing their concern that the eruv will cause serious disturbance to social harmony in the area.

"Deep offended hostility would ensue if religious hatred of this kind were to be erected on public roads and open spaces," say the residents who include the former Labour Minister Arnold Dell.

They are objecting because they claim

the poles would cause an unacceptable visual blight in the area, from which everyone would suffer to serve the interests of only one religious group.

"A few months ago, we were all delighted that Lord McGregor of Durrill had agreed to take over the chairmanship of Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. His resignation at the recent meeting of the Trust, as a result of the vilification to which he was subjected, is a foretaste of the division that will be caused if this proposal is allowed to proceed."

Meanwhile, Joan Laurance, of Childs Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, has written to Judge Israel Fineststein, chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, to complain about the behaviour of fellow Jews who took part in the discussion on the eruv at the Trust's annual meeting. She called on him to challenge them about what happened.

Shutz: Why I oppose scheme

BARNET'S leader, Roy Shutz, believes that the eruv application should most properly be dealt with by the council, and not



Alan Perrin, technical adviser to the eruv committee, with one of the contentious poles.

Some Jews have become

05-01-1992 10:00

NEWS & WELLS

12

P.03/05

Sabbath is 'jail'

HAM & HIGH 26 Nov '98 (13)

No: it's divisive and offensive

"WHAT kind of God have they created that would deny people in wheelchairs and the infirm the comfort of worshipping in synagogue? What kind of God is it that relies on Barnet Council to deliver his people?"

These are among the reasons why Norma Blausten, president of Hampstead Garden Suburb Tories, is so vehemently opposed to the eruv.

Mrs Blausten grew up in a very Orthodox family in Minster Road, West Hampstead. From an early age she began to find some of the religious rites hypocritical. "We weren't allowed to put the lights on — the maids used to do it. I was told it wasn't their Sabbath."

She also never came to terms with being forbidden to carry money on the Sabbath. She recalls that on her way to synagogue she used to give some of her pocket money to a disabled old man who played a wind-up gramophone in the street. "The rabbi gave a real lecture about carrying money to

synagogue. I was outraged — it didn't seem right to prevent me giving him some of my pocket money."

She regards the eruv as a way of evading self-imposed difficulties. "It certainly wasn't in the 10 commandments that there should be an eruv."

An eruv will attract more Orthodox people into the area, which will "upset the balance of the social mix", argues Mrs Blausten. "When you take a disproportionate number of any minority group into an area it changes the character."

A founder member of Barnet Community Relations Council, she says that when some Jewish people talk about the "community" they mean the Jewish community. "When I talk about the community I mean the community. The Suburb Residents' Association and the trust are for everybody. They aren't seeking all the time to do things for one part of the community."



● Norma Blausten: "eruv will upset balance of the social mix".