

Beth Din. London

" JL 1 "

COURT OF THE CHIEF RABBI

בית דין צדק
דק"ק לונדון והמדינה

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

ADLER HOUSE
TAVISTOCK SQUARE
LONDON, WC1H 9HP
Telephone: 071-387 5772
Fax: 071-383 4920

11th February 1993
20 Shevat 5753

To Whom It May Concern

The London Beth Din is the Court of the Chief Rabbi, the religious authority of the United Synagogue which has 42 synagogues in London and a membership of 39,000.

The provision of an eruv is a positive precept in Jewish law and a requirement of any established community. It enhances the Sabbath enjoyment of all and particularly for the elderly, the disabled and young families.

The legal effect of an eruv is to extend the notional domain within which carrying is permitted, as indeed it is in a private home, on the Sabbath.

We have been asked to review the plans for the North West London Eruv, as submitted for planning consent to Barnet Council, and to rule on its validity under Jewish law.

We have further been asked to comment on various statements that have apparently been made by certain councillors and others regarding the nature of an eruv and its effect on non-users.

This court has reviewed the plans in detail, has considered the specific area and any special features therein and surveyed each site.

We confirm that the proposed eruv complies in all respects with the requirements of Jewish law.

Contrary to statements attributed to certain councillors and others and publicised recently:

- The eruv, when constructed, whilst enhancing the Sabbath enjoyment of practising Jews, has absolutely no effect on other people. Jews who prefer not to use the eruv will simply ignore it, as will non-observant Jews and non-Jews.
- The posts and wire required for an eruv have no intrinsic religious significance and there is no religious ceremony associated with their construction.
- The eruv does not mark a 'ghetto'.
- An eruv is a public symbol of tolerance and mutual respect. It indicates a community free to practise and enjoy its own traditions as part of, and integrated within an understanding and tolerant society.



Dayan Ch. Ebrentreu
Head of the Ecclesiastical Court

