

STATEMENT OF JONATHAN LEW

1. I am the Chief Executive of the United Synagogue having held this post since 1986. In that capacity, I am the senior executive officer responsible to the President and Honorary Officers of the United Synagogue which was established by statute in 1870.

2. In 1990 the United Synagogue Eruv Committee was set up as a result of the then President inviting the Honorary Officers of the four constituent synagogues of the United Synagogue (Golders Green, Hendon, Finchley and Hampstead Garden Suburb) within the area of the proposed Eruv and one independent community (Ner Yisrael) who each sent one lay representative together with their Rabbi to form the United Synagogue Eruv Committee. Michael Goldmeier, one of the Honorary Officers of the United Synagogue, was appointed Chairman of the Committee and remained in this post until October 1992 when he ceased to be an honorary officer of the United Synagogue. In October 1992 the Committee appointed David Schreiber (a member of the United Synagogue in Hendon and the Independent Ner Yisrael community) chairman of the Committee and he has remained in this post since that date.

3. In June 1991 I submitted the United Synagogue's proposals for the Eruv to the London Borough of Barnet. In January 1992 the Eruv Committee applied for planning permission to the London Borough of Barnet to establish the Eruv and when planning permission was refused in February 1993, the Committee lodged the appeal now taking place.

4. The ecclesiastical authority of the United Synagogue is the Chief Rabbi. The Chief Rabbi is the titular presiding judge of his Court known as the London Beth Din. The head

of the London Beth Din for day to day purposes is Dayan (Judge) Chanoch Ehrentreu. Dayan Ehrentreu is also resident within the area of the Eruv. Dayan Ehrentreu has been involved in the planning of the Eruv and has satisfied himself as to its complying with the necessary religious requirements. On 11th February 1993, the London Beth Din issued its official certificate confirming that the proposed Eruv complies in all respects with the requirements of Jewish law, that the posts and wires have no intrinsic religious significance and that there is no religious ceremony associated with their construction. The certificate also confirmed that the Eruv does not mark a "ghetto". A copy of the certificate is attached marked "JL 1".

5. According to the report of the Community Research Unit of the Board of Deputies of British Jews entitled "British Synagogue Membership in 1990", the household membership of those constituent synagogues of the United Synagogue participating in the Eruv Committee for the Barnet Eruv is as follows:-

Finchley	1469
Hendon	1425
Hampstead Garden Suburb	1042
Golders Green	754
TOTAL	4690

This total of 4690 households represents in excess of 10,000 souls. Also participating in the support of the Eruv Committee are a number of independent Orthodox Synagogues.

6. A petition in support of the Eruv and signed by some 3299

Barnet resident adults was handed to Barnet Council in February 1993. Attached marked "JS 1(b)" is a copy of an audit certificate signed by Messrs Stoy Hayward (Chartered Accountants) confirming the above number of valid Barnet resident signatories. Typical of the petitioners and their families is Dr Fabia Shaw whose statement is attached and marked "JS 1(c)".

7. A synagogue, which considers itself traditional rather than Orthodox, the New North London Synagogue, has expressed its support for the Eruv and its rabbi has written to the Planning Committee confirming that his community has some 400 members, most of whom live in Barnet. He has also stated that the creation of the proposed Eruv would make a great deal of difference to very many Jewish people, himself and many of his congregants included. The other non-Orthodox synagogues in the area of the Eruv may not be directly affected by the Eruv issue but the Director of the Sternberg Centre for Judaism has confirmed his support for the proposal "on behalf of a significant percentage of the Reform Jewish Community in the Borough".