

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV COMMITTEE



	URGENT FAX MESSAGE
TO	Distribution
FROM	David Schreiber
SUBJECT	Appeal Decision by the Secretary of State
DATE	22. 09. 94

מזל טוב

We have just been notified of Mr. John Gummer's decision to approve the Eruv and grant this committee's appeal against Barnet Council planning refusal.

From every point of view we wish to present a low profile response to the inevitable community and media interest and we have therefore prepared the attached brief statement. I would ask everyone concerned who is approached by the press to refer enquiries to Committee Spokesman Edward Black or Graham Murdoch of our Planning Consultants and to restrict any comment to the exact text of the statement which has been carefully considered and discussed with the professionals concerned.

We hope to announce the timetable to completion when we can review matters after the Jewish holidays. We now have to deal with the Department of Transport to obtain the necessary technical orders which were dependent on receiving planning approval. Detailed surveys will be necessary in a number of sites and the plans will be fine-tuned to allow for existing and planned roadworks on the North Circular.

This pre-construction phase of our programme is definitely a matter of months and not weeks and so we would not want the community, who have been patient for so long, to have false expectations of the eruv going up overnight! In parallel to these activities, we will need to prepare educational material for schools and shuls in the community. You will be advised once we have a clear programme and timetable and have determined what resources will be required and who can do what to help!

I would like to thank everybody who has helped us reach this milestone, ב"ה

David

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Committee

Laurence Begner, Brian Berenblut, Edward Black, Joe Bloomberg, David Cohen, Daniel Drukarz, Alfie Frei, Jeremy Hershkorn, Michael Goldblatt, David Marriott, Graham S Morris, Mark Moss, Michael Posen, David Schreiber, Syma Weinberg, Michael Weinstein

Rabbinic Panel

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

Supervisory Authority

Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks, Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu, Head of the London Beth Din

United Synagogue Liaison

Elkan Levy (Honorary Officer)

Technical Officer Alan Perin B.Sc.

PRESS STATEMENT

Mr. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, has granted planning permission for Britain's first community eruv to be built in North West London, endorsing the findings of the Public Inquiry held last December.

This decision is in response to the appeal by the United Synagogue Eruv Committee against Barnet Council's rejection of its application for planning permission.

Commenting on the decision, Edward Black, a committee spokesman said:

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee, and the community it represents, are delighted and grateful that the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. John Gummer, has granted planning consent for the first community eruv in the U.K.

The North West London eruv will greatly benefit the local observant Jewish community. In particular it will enable thousands of people particularly mothers, children, the elderly and the disabled to enjoy their sabbath to the full.

We do appreciate that the idea of a community eruv, previously unknown in the UK, gave rise to anxiety among some people. The Secretary of State and the Planning Inspector have considered all the relevant issues and concerns in reaching their decision. We therefore trust that all parties will now put their differences behind them and move forward in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

We are confident that once established, the NW London Eruv like those in the United States, Canada, Australia, Belgium and elsewhere, will be appreciated by people who need it and not noticed by those who don't.

For further information, please contactEdward Black 071-628 0101 or Planning ConsultantGraham Murdoch 081-505 8138
