

34 FAIRHOLME GARDENS

LONDON, N3 3EB

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Councillor Frank Davis,
Member of the Development and Protection Committee,
(Old Planning Committee),
C/o Town Hall,
The Burroughs,
LONDON NW4 4BG

2nd October 1996

Dear Councillor Davis,

I acknowledge receipt of your reply to my letter regarding the Eruv. You have made three observations that require to be challenged since there is clearly a bias in your reply which is lamentable to say the least.

In the first place I resent your gratuitous comment regarding the "true orthodox". If your definition of "true orthodox" is someone who has a long beard and dresses in a black hat and black garments and is of the Jewish faith then I regret to inform you that your views are misplaced. There are many observant Jews, such as myself who do not display these outward signs but nevertheless regard themselves as being at least as orthodox as those that do display the signs. While it is true that some Rabbis have written to the committee objecting to the Eruv (many of whose congregation would in fact support the Eruv) the official recognised leaders of the orthodox Jewish community are active supporters of the Eruv, including the Chief Rabbi and the head of the Beth Din. In your official capacity as a member of the wider Jewish community these facts must be known to you and it is a disgrace that you are so blinkered to them.

In the second place, you have quoted the number of United Synagogue members who will benefit from the Eruv. Since I personally know a far larger number than the number you have quoted (and I know only a small proportion of United Synagogue members) I should be grateful if you would let me know upon which facts you base your assertion. You have conveniently also forgotten the large number of other Jews in the area who are not members of the United Synagogue but who would also benefit from the Eruv.

Thirdly, you state that the vast majority of Hampstead Garden Suburb is against the Eruv. As you well know only a part of the Suburb is included within the Eruv. I would therefore be interested in knowing upon which facts this statement of yours is also made.

I write this letter in a personal capacity so therefore I feel at liberty to state that I regret that your clear animosity to observant Jews is so evident. I hope that you will yet bring yourself to bring a balanced judgement to bear on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



PETER SHELDON