

34 FAIRHOLME GARDENS  
LONDON, N3 3EB  
0181-346 5155

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

7th October 1996

Dear Councillor Davis,

I very much appreciate the trouble you have taken to deal with my previous letter to you. I had not appreciated that you did not receive a copy of the letter circulated by Elizabeth Lawrence and I am attaching a copy to this letter. You will see that she was suggesting that all objectors should correspond with the appropriate members of the Development and Protection Committee, your name being on the list. That was the reason for my corresponding with you in the first place. I hope you will not mind my dealing with certain specific issues that you have raised.

1. Rabbi Padwa is the head of an orthodox body, the vast majority of whose members, including Rabbi Padwa, do not live within the area of the Eruv. Over centuries, religious leaders have differed on matters of religious principle and Rabbi Padwa is entitled to his views. I hope however you would not place these ahead of those of recognised orthodox Rabbis and leaders of the community, who live within the Eruv, and who are its ardent supporters. Leaving aside the Rabbis of the major congregations affected, the head of the London Beth Din, Dayan Ehrentreu, the Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Lord Jacobovitz, and the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks have all indicated 100% support.
2. I hope you will take it from me that the numbers you have quoted are nonsense and if they come from the Kalms report then the Kalms report is nonsense. You may be interested to know that Finchley Synagogue alone has a greater number than you have indicated who have asked for and await the Eruv with eager anticipation. Our number is less than the individual numbers of other adjoining communities. Furthermore many in the ultra-orthodox camp have also indicated that they wish to make use of the Eruv.
3. If I have offended you by my suggestion of animosity to observant Jews then I unreservedly withdraw that allegation. I too have a long record of service both to our own community and the wider community including, like you, eleven years service as a magistrate. It is because I am so conscious of the need to recognise the interests of minorities that I feel so acutely about this issue. The physical aspects of the Eruv will adversely affect no-one as has been proved in so many places where they exist. It will however benefit a very large number of people whose practices may not be understood by others but should, I believe, be respected.

4. I do not wish to burden you with the need to correspond further and please do not feel any requirement to acknowledge or respond to this letter unless you desire to do so.

I too wish you well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Sheldon', is written over the typed name.

PETER SHELDON