

7

Dr Jeffrey J. Segall
308 Bricklewood Lane, London NW2 2PX
Tel: 081-455 5005 Fax: 081-209 1231

26 October 1992

Mr G. Brown
Chief Planner, Development Control
London Borough of Barnet
1255 High Road, Whetstone
London N20 0EJ

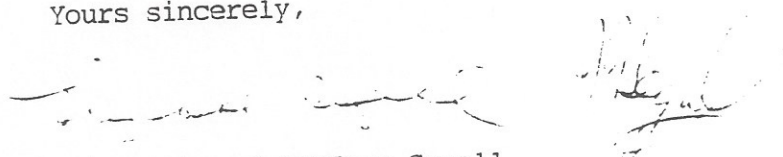
Dear Mr Brown,

Ref: P/DM/JE/ERUV

Thank you for your letter of 20th October, which unfortunately fails to address the complaints in our earlier letters, which arose as follows:

1. The Barnet advertisement of 27 August stated, "Anyone wishing to comment on the planning aspects of the proposal may do so in writing by 18 September 1992". (If, as now seems to be the case, this was not a closing date, the statement was misleading, and the possibility that it was deliberately so ought now to be answered.)
2. Similarly, the consultation letter of 27 August 1992 to most directly affected residents states, "If you have any observations to make on the proposal, these should be made in writing by 18th September 1992. (As the Council selected Bank Holiday weekend to send its consultation letter, misled residents who were away, including ourselves, effectively had less than the statutory 21 days notice to make comments to the Council.)"
3. The advertisement and consultation letter failed to describe the proposed posts. It was unreasonable to expect residents to make the journey to the Planning Department to obtain such information from the Application, particularly in view of the short period that had apparently been allowed for comments. Yet the Department could not tell us on the telephone the height, circumference and material of the proposed posts.
4. We therefore wrote to the Department for this and other information on 12th September, and obtained a reply in a letter dated and received in the week after the apparent closing date.
5. This letter revealed the important information that the posts would be owned by the Applicant - whose identity is not disclosed in the Council's advertisement or consultation letter.
6. To these complaints, we now wish to add that the Application (which we have now seen) states that "the purpose of the Eruv is to convert the entire area within the boundary into one, notional jointly [public and private] owned domain"; and that the Applicant fails to give religious or democratic credentials to speak for Barnet's orthodox Jewish residents, or even for those who are members of the United Synagogue. Yet the Council has accepted a planning application from a Committee whose standing in Barnet is unknown, and which would own the proposed posts and would, albeit jointly, notionally own or administer part of the Borough as a domain!

Yours sincerely,


Elizabeth and Jeffrey Segall

cc. Local Commissioner for Administration
John Marshall MP

