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14th October 1996

Councillor Jonathan Davies
Members' Room
Town Hall
Hendon NW4 4BG

Dear Councillor Davies,

Revised Eruv Application

We are writing to you as a Councillor for Childs Hill as well as in your capacity as a member of the Public Works Committee (which will, as you know, be considering the above Application on 19th November), to object to the Application. Whilst we are obviously relieved that the threat of using our home as Eruv boundary has been lifted, we are concerned that there are now many others who face this threat without having been made aware of it.

In the summer of 1992 the *Childs Hill News* (*The Newsheet of .. Liberal Democrat Councillors*), informed its readers that Liberal Democrat councillors would be supporting the 'innocuous' Eruv proposal, without, to the best of our knowledge, any attempt at seeking constituents' views on the matter.

In the light of facts which have emerged since 1993, and in particular the information on the attached excerpt from the *Eruv Manual*, we sincerely hope that you will act democratically, and fully inform your constituents in Childs Hill about the revised application; and also that you will vote to reject the Application for licences on 19th November.

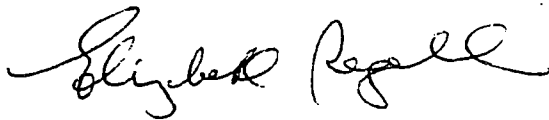
In particular, we urge you to consult with your constituents about the following:

- (1) The proposed Eruv boundary running along the north side of Cricklewood Lane and the west side of Hendon Way necessitates 13 new sites for poles-and-wire constructions. What are your constituents' views on these?
- (2) Much of the affected part of the north side of Cricklewood Lane consists of Longberrys Estate, mainly owned by Barnet Council. To the best of our knowledge, the Council has not ascertained from the Eruv Committee whether the "existing boundary" would be the frontages of the buildings or the fence at the rear. Will you obtain this information and pass it on to your constituents? They have the right to know.
- (3) Many residences in Childs Hill would become part of the physical boundary (see *Eruv Manual* excerpt) of the proposed Eruv. Are your constituents aware of this use of their dwellinghouses, and do they give their consent to it? (Or do you consider, as does the Eruv Committee, that the acceptance by Barnet Council of the £4000 gift from the Eruv Committee justifies ignoring the ethical need for individual consents?)
- (4) Are your constituents aware that the proposed poles-and-wire constructions at site 13 (Wildwood Road) would almost certainly necessitate cutting of, or other interference with trees, (specifically prohibited by the Secretary of State in September 1994), thereby damaging trees in a Conservation Area used by many local people?
- (5) Of particular concern to us, and we believe to other local people, are the proposed poles-and-wire constructions at site 41. This siting can certainly not be called 'prudent' (see letter of 6th August 1996 to Mr. Townsend from Fibbens Fox Associates), as the constructions are intrusive, unsightly and pose grave hazards. The hazards would arise from their close proximity

to the walkway of the bridge - a clear incitement to youngsters to climb up or down (even if the poles were painted with special paint). Moreover, there may well be people who would be unwilling to use the walkway once it is encumbered by Eruv "gateways" (which some pedestrians would find offensive to their beliefs), thus resulting in accidents. Will you seek the opinions of your constituents on this proposed siting?

Finally, we would like to remind you that in June 1992, before the first Eruv Application was lodged with Barnet Council, the Eruv proponents were given the opportunity to put their case to the Council. At no time have Eruv objectors (who we believe greatly outnumber proponents) been given such an opportunity. Will you now be true to your party's stated belief in democracy at local level (*it is essential to democracy that there is a two-way dialogue between you and your elected representatives* - Autumn 1993 Childs Hill News), and arrange for a presentation by objectors to be made to the Council? This would also provide an opportunity for the full Council to consider the wider issues which have come into the public domain since Mr. Gummer gave planning permission for poles-and-wire constructions in 1994.

Yours sincerely



cc Paddy Ashdown