

ROMAN
INVESTMENTS
LTD

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Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Corporation of London
Aztec House
397-405 Archway Road
London N6 4EY

Attn: Mr Paul Canneaux

15th April 1992

Dear Mr Canneaux,

Re: Proposed ERUV - Hendon and Golders Green Area

I am writing in my capacity of technical consultant to the Eruv Committee of the United Synagogue, and am in receipt of copy correspondence between yourself and Mr John Koster, Principal Engineer (Highways) at Barnet.

From the outset of our application to Barnet last year, it was deemed correct protocol to utilise the good offices of Barnet in our negotiations with "Hampstead Heath" and the Department of Transport (in respect of the trunk roads which pass out of the notional boundary of the Eruv.)

Upon receipt of your letter dated 2nd April to Mr Koster, it is apparent that there has been a degree of misunderstanding about our proposals, especially as they relate to the Heath Extension at Wildwood Road and also to the Golders Hill Park fence adjacent to Sandy Lane.

In the first instance all the Eruv's post-and-wire constructions are only **token** fences i.e. they have the appearance of a doorway comprising two vertical posts and some cross member acting as a lintel. The post have a minimum height (1m) **but no maximum**. Effectively therefore we are utilising telegraph poles on the road crossings (to maintain an appropriate clearance below (c.7m)) and would wish to keep the few posts on Wildwood Road a similar height.

Your reasonable concern regarding blind persons, dogs etc. harming themselves on the wire is therefore not appropriate to this form of construction.

In addition, whereas the "wire" spanning roads is indeed a steel cable (up to DTP standards), the "wire" spanning the tops of the Wildwood Road posts will, it is proposed, be "invisible" nylon monofilament (fishing wire).

Following on from the concept of a token boundary, the span of these wires is limited only by practicality. The position of the initial proposed posts is c. 20m apart, sufficiently far from the pavement to ensure that the chords defined by the stretched wires avoids the pavement entirely. I have no data at present on the maximum feasible span for nylon monofilament.

In summation, you will see that we are most concerned that the Eruv posts and wire are safe, unobtrusive (telegraph poles are probably the least conspicuous though we would consider any alternative suggestion) and committed to continuous and regular maintenance. Indeed, unless all the Eruv perimeter is checked **every week** prior to the Sabbath, its integrity is placed in serious doubt. The United Synagogue would employ an operative to carry out this regular inspection.

All the activities associated with the Eruv would be paid for exclusively by the United Synagogue.

In respect of the Golders Hill Park fence, the Eruv Committee would actually prefer to see the replacement of the dilapidated fence with a more robust one. Whilst we appreciate that funds may not be immediately available, the Committee would be willing, subject to contract, to contribute to these costs if this was to speed up the fence-replacement programme. The pole-and-wire option here was only proposed as a stop-gap measure, but a genuine fence has many benefits, not least its robustness. We have costed the option of replacing the whole length with new rustic paling and are sure that a sum of money equivalent to this cost would be a welcome addition to your department's budget.

Once again regular inspection (and repair) would be the responsibility of the Eruv Committee.

I hope you will appreciate that our proposals do not, as we understand them, contravene the spirit or meaning of the Acts protecting the Heath, and in the light of my description above I would very much appreciate a reconsideration of your initial dismissal of our plans.

Given the unusual nature of the project I believe that a short meeting, at which I could put the whole Eruv into context would be most useful.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Perrin



cc. D Schreiber