



Britain's first Community Eruv

Announcement

The United Synagogue is proud to announce its proposals for Britain's first community Eruv. This important religious amenity, with the approval of the Chief Rabbi, will mean the end of misery suffered by young parents and people in wheelchairs who have not been able to enjoy the Sabbath to the full.

What is an Eruv?

A notional perimeter defining a community area.

Without an Eruv, observant Jews cannot carry anything on the Sabbath. This restriction extends to not pushing prams or wheelchairs.

The need for an Eruv

The Jewish Sabbath is traditionally a day for prayer and a time for families to get together.

With the Eruv, parents with young children will be able to go to Synagogue and visit family and friends. The disabled will be liberated from being confined at home.

How is it made?

Much like the old City of London or local parishes, the Eruv needs to be defined. Natural or existing boundaries, such as rivers or railway lines are used for over 90% of the perimeter and only exceptionally wide gaps need to be spanned with an unobtrusive filament supported by poles. Obviously these are designed to comply with all Highways and Public Safety requirements. The additional 'street furniture' involved is minimal and has no detrimental impact on the environment. Technical details of the proposal have been agreed by the Public Works officials of Barnet Council.

Who pays for the Eruv?

The local Jewish community has paid all council costs of the feasibility study and will fund the construction, maintenance and public liability insurance.

Will it effect other people in the area?

No. It is purely notional and is only of significance to observant Jews.

Does the Eruv require planning permission?

Yes. The proposal is now before the Barnet Public Works Committee and will then need to receive planning consent.

There is very widespread support among the more than 10,000 observant people in the local Jewish community.

Precedents elsewhere

There are Eruvs in over 30 US cities where the principle of Freedom of Worship is defended by the Supreme Court. They also exist in many European cities, in Israel and Australia.

Barnet will be the first UK Borough to boast this forward-looking amenity.

Community support

The proposal has the full backing of JEWISH CARE and other major welfare organisations, and of the two local MPs, John Marshall and Hartley Booth.

The movement for an Eruv has been promoted by the four large United Synagogue Community Centres at Hendon, Golders Green, Finchley & Hampstead Garden Suburb as well as by other independent congregations.



Press Conference

Date 4pm on Monday 22nd June 1992
Place Hendon Synagogue, Raleigh Close,
Hendon, London NW4
Contact Valerie Pez 071-433 3434