

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV COMMITTEE



INTERNAL MEMO	
TO	Dayan Ehrentreu and the Rabbinical Panel United Synagogue Liaison Committee Members cc Fibbens Fox Assoc.
FROM	Edward Black
SUBJECT	Press management of Appeal & Application 'B'
DATE	Friday, June 11th, 1993

Private & Confidential

With a favourable response from the Department of Transport now in hand, both the Appeal and the revised Application have been released by Fibbens Fox to the Secretary of State and Barnet, respectively.

We can anticipate that the story will be picked up by the press, particularly the local papers. The Ham&High has been keeping the story alive and may be running a piece this week, speculating on the ramifications on the eruv of the cabinet re-shuffle!

We have consulted with our PR advisors and formulated the following strategy and I would ask each of you for your full support in its implementation in order to avoid any unnecessary 'media fallout'.

- 1 I will be contacting the TIMES, the JC and the Hendon & Finchley Times, early next week, to brief them along the lines of the attached Press Release in order to maintain positive relations and secure a counter-weight to the inevitable blast from the H&H.
- 2 **All contact from the media must be referred, without comment, to Graham Murdoch at Fibbens Fox on 081-505 8138, our planning consultants, who is authorised to respond on our behalf and who will be briefed in detail.**

Thanks for your usual co-operation!

Fibbens Fox Associates

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Eruv is an amenity which will enable thousands of observant Jews in North West London to enjoy their Sabbath to the full. Its existence will allow families and particularly those with young children and elderly or disabled relatives to attend the synagogue and to participate in community and family life. Although the Eruv will greatly enhance the quality of life of observant Jews, it will have no adverse effect on other people.

The Sabbath is a day set apart from the working week. Family time and spiritual pursuits are encouraged whilst certain activities are prohibited. Pushing wheelchairs or baby buggies and carrying is permitted only at home and within those community areas marked by an Eruv.

There are over 100 Eruvs in the United States. The Georgetown Eruv in Washington DC includes the White House, Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court. Eruvs are also to be found in Australia, France, Belgium and Gibraltar. The North West London Eruv will be the first large scale Eruv in the UK.

The Eruv has a circumference of about 11 miles of which 10.4 miles consists of existing boundaries such as the MI and the Northern Line. In order to complete the Eruv, the United Synagogue Eruv Committee has applied to Barnet Council for planning permission to put up a number of posts to support single strands of transparent nylon line which will span the gaps in the existing boundaries. The revised proposal calls for a total of 80 posts and 940 metres of nylon line.

A petition gathered earlier this year in support of the Eruv, since validated by independent auditors, attracted 3,299 signatures from Barnet voters, 2,840 of whom live within the area of the Eruv.

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee consists of the Rabbis and lay representatives of the four United Synagogues, and other independent communities, within the Eruv area. The supervisory authority with respect to matters of Jewish law is the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jonathan Sacks and the Court of the Chief Rabbi, headed by Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu.

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PRESS STATEMENT on behalf of the United Synagogue Eruv Committee

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee has filed a revised planning application with Barnet Council for permission to erect 80 posts and 940m of nylon line which will enable the establishment of an Eruv in North West London.

The new application takes account of the concerns voiced by members of Barnet Council Planning Committee at a hearing in February 1993, at which the original application was refused.

- Any impact of the proposed Eruv on the Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation area will be significantly reduced. The revised proposal utilises existing lamp-posts in Wildwood Road, eliminating five poles originally proposed within the Conservation area at Turners Wood and the adjoining meadow land.
- In order to further reduce visual impact, the original proposal to use transparent nylon line which will be virtually invisible has been reinstated. This change has been made after consultation with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The Eruv Committee has always been conscious of environmental concerns and the original application was recommended for acceptance by the Borough Planning Officer. The revised application addresses, in an equally positive and sensitive manner, the further planning concerns expressed at the meeting of the Barnet Planning Committee.

On the advice of its planning consultants, the Eruv Committee has also filed an appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment against Barnet Council Planning Committee's refusal of the Eruv Committee's earlier application.