

PRESS STATEMENT

Mr. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, has granted planning permission for Britain's first community eruv to be built in North West London, endorsing the findings of the Public Inquiry held last December.

This decision is in response to the appeal of the United Synagogue Eruv Committee against Barnet Council's rejection of its application for planning permission.

Commenting on the decision, a committee spokesman said:

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee, and the community it represents, are delighted and grateful that the Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr. John Gummer, has granted planning consent for the first community eruv in the UK.

The North West London eruv will greatly benefit the local observant Jewish community. In particular it will enable thousands of mothers, children, the elderly and the disabled to enjoy their sabbath to the full.

We do appreciate that the idea of a community eruv, previously unknown in the UK, gave rise to anxiety among some people. The Secretary of State and the Planning Inspector have considered all the relevant issues and concerns in reaching their positive decision. We therefore trust that all parties will now put their differences behind them and move forward in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

We are confident that once established, the NW London Eruv like those in the States, Canada, Australia and elsewhere, will be appreciated by people who need it and not noticed by those who don't.

For further information, please contact Eruv Committee Spokesman
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