

Eruv creates 'Yugoslavian' divide

McGregor hits out at rising intolerance

PEOPLE whose homes lie within the 6½ square miles of Barnet earmarked for the eruv are living through a conflict which is a microcosm of experiences in the former Yugoslavia, Press Complaints Commission chairman Lord McGregor told the planning inquiry into the proposal.

"It has come as a very great shock to many of us in this area to see that we are living through in miniature some of the experiences which have blossomed in Yugoslavia and various other parts of the world. We all ought to be concerned and greatly alarmed by this development."

Lord McGregor, who lives in Wyldes Close, Hampstead Garden Suburb, close to Wildwood Road — the most controversial site proposed for poles and wires marking the eruv boundary — told the inquiry of his own "unhappy experience" of the divisiveness of the scheme to mark a symbolically enclosed area within which Jewish Sabbath laws on carrying and pushing could be relaxed.

He was forced by Orthodox Jewish lobbyists to resign as chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust at its annual meeting following objections to a letter he approved expressing fears that the eruv could prove divisive.

'Rentamob'

He was so alarmed by his experience of a "rentamob" at that meeting that he wrote to Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Mr Sacks replied that the "warm, cohesive community" for which the Suburb had a reputation would remain unimpaired.

"It is perfectly clear for anyone who reads local newspapers and for anyone who has attended this inquiry that one thing that hasn't



● Lord Soper: Eruv is "unnecessary addition to our troubles rather than the expansion of our ideals".

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