

Bosses of Heath say no to eruv

2002/9/11 14:06:02
HAMPSTEAD HIGH
JEWISH CENTRE
Edwards, 15000

HEATH managers have opposed plans to create a controversial Jewish religious boundary in Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb amid concerns over potential damage to trees.

Long-standing plans to build a six-and-a-half mile eruv in Barnet took another twist this week as the Corporation of London delivered a report to Barnet Council expressing strong fears about possible damage to protected woodland.

The study, commissioned by Corporation chiefs two months ago, criticised the proposal for 87 poles to be installed at 39 different locations and connected by 1,100 yards of fishing wire.

The boundary would create an area within which Orthodox Jews can carry and use pushchairs and do things otherwise forbidden on the Sabbath.

The plans were given the green light by Barnet Council last August, on the understanding that trees in Wildwood Road, which backs on to the

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NEVER TOO YOUNG



Pupils at UCS in Hampstead dashed Wednesday morning - to watch the

N HEATH BOSSES OPPOSE ERUV

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Heath, would not be pruned.

But environmental experts claim the trees would have to be trimmed - and possibly felled - to make way for the eruv.

A Corporation spokesman said: "The pruning of the trees would constitute an absolute contradiction to everything that the management of Hampstead Heath stands for. It is near woodland and we don't want the trees to be chopped down or even pruned. It is completely against our philosophy."

"We want to be sympathetic to religious needs but our objections are very clear indeed. We are not convinced that the plans can go ahead in their current form without posing a risk to the trees. We are now asking Barnet Council to read the report and come up with a solution."

The report is the latest attempt to block the eruv. While supporters say it is a crucial proposal which would allow thou-

sands of Orthodox Jews to enjoy the Sabbath, objectors - who have been campaigning since a public inquiry in 1993 - claim that the poles will infringe upon the personal rights of residents.

Elizabeth Lawrence, of the Barnet Eruv Objectors group, the largest eruv opponents group in London, said: "I am delighted. It is about time the Corporation of London did something about the situation."

A spokesman for Barnet Council said: "The eruv is not a council project. It is something it has considered and dealt with as a planning and highways authority."

"If the eruv committee have problems with anything under their control, it is our concern but problems and issues arising in other areas are for the authority responsible to deal with and comment on."

A spokesman for the United Synagogue Eruv Committee was unavailable for comment.

DEATHS

JOHNSON: IRENE, aged 72 years, passed away peacefully at home on 29th May 2002. Beloved sister of Ted and loving Aunt of Peter, Cremation

IN MEMORIUM