

Members fear 'double standard' of the eruv



● Pictured above, members of the United Synagogue's eruv committee (from left), Laurence Begner, David Schreiber, it's technical consultant Alan Perrin, and Edward Black. Above right, Councillor Roy Shutz.

NOT even lobbying at the 11th hour failed to convince a sufficient number of councillors on Barnet's planning committee to support the controversial eruv scheme.

Councillor David Williams was ap-

proached by a member of the United Synagogue's eruv committee the night before the decision was due to be made. "He was very persuasive."

But Mr Williams was among the 11 councillors who voted against the application.

Seven came out in favour and the other two abstained.

The public gallery was so full that 160 people listened to the debate relayed to another room.

Mr Williams told the committee



meeting that he was opposing the scheme solely on planning grounds. A Catholic priest in his ward had wanted to put up a small sign on a lamp-post pointing to his church but was told it would clutter the streetscape. Comparing this stance with the planning officers' support of the eruv application, he said: "I find there may well be double standards applied by the council here."

Councillor Gillian Bull had been approached by an old people's organisation that had been trying for a considerable

part of the application but I do find myself in difficulty on the part which impinges on the conservation area of Hampstead Garden Suburb. I don't think that by any stretch of the imagination those poles will either enhance or improve the area."

Liberal Democrat Monroe Palmer, who was allowed to speak although not a member of the committee, showed councillors a photo given to him by the eruv committee showing a Wildwood Road street name sign with a telegraph pole and wires next to it. He argued that the eruv