

School fined for fouling stream

A TOP private school has been ordered to pay out £5,000 for polluting Mutton Brook in the Garden Suburb.

The spillage of red diesel oil, delivered to the £2,200 a term

Highgate School by Independent Petroleum Supplies Limited last October, was reported to the National Rivers Authority by a member of the public.

The suppliers, of Philip Lane, Tottenham, were also

fined £2,000 on Tuesday at Haringey Magistrates Court. Both parties admitted the summons brought against them by the rivers watchdog and were ordered to pay £260 costs.

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Gummer approves eruv plan

CONTROVERSIAL plans to set up the country's first large-scale eruv in Barnet have finally been given the go-ahead.

Environment Secretary John Gummer has endorsed the recommendation of planning inspector David Bushby that planning permission be given to put up 80 18 foot high telegraph-type poles linked by nearly 1,000 metres of wire to denote part of the eruv boundary.

The decision marks the end of a saga which deeply divided the Jewish community and culminated in a week-long public inquiry nine months ago.

It represents a victory for the United Synagogue Eruv Committee, whose plans to put up the poles for its symbolically defined six square mile area encompassing Hendon, Golders Green and parts of Finchley, Mill Hill and the Garden Suburb, have been five years in the making. It appealed after councillors refused their application in February last year.

Within the eruv, strict Sabbath restrictions on pushing prams and wheelchairs are relaxed, freeing the disabled and young mothers who are Orthodox Jews to leave their homes and travel to synagogue.

The Secretary of State said arguments over "social harmony" were not strong enough to refuse what was a "very unusual" application. Opponents had claimed the eruv could become the focus for anti-Semitic attacks.

by PAUL FRANCIS

Inspector David Bushby said the poles would not prove an eyesore. "While the proposed poles would add to the street furniture, there is no location where the overall impact would seriously harm the character and appearance of that particular location," he said.

The inspector said his conclusions on these two issues meant he had not considered the question of how many people would use the eruv. Some disputed the estimates of how many would use the amenity.

Reaction to the decision has been mixed but one of the most outspoken critics urged the community to set aside its differences. Garden Suburb councillor Frank Davis said: "When the umpire has made a decision, you should accept it. I hope this will put an end to the internecine warfare."

Hendon South MP John Marshall said: "I hope that the heat the debate generated can be moderated. This has been an issue which has split families." See comment, page 12