

LEGAL CHALLENGE COULD BE NEXT MOVE

Eruv opponents consider options

ERUV opponents were this week weighing up whether grounds existed for challenging the Secretary of State's ruling allowing the proposed Jewish enclave to go ahead.

Opinion among some, however, appeared divided over whether a potentially costly legal challenge, possibly in the form of a judicial review, was realistic.

The inspector's verdict was based entirely on planning grounds, which many believe would make it difficult to argue he acted "unreasonably" in reaching his decision.

by PAUL FRANCIS

The Barnet Eruv Objectors Group, which expressed dismay at the ruling, will scrutinise the report before deciding what, if any, action to take.

"We are not ruling anything out and we're not ruling anything in.

"We are still opposed to it but we have to consult lawyers," said spokeswoman Elizabeth Lawrence.

The United Synagogue Eruv Committee, meanwhile, echoed

the call of Hampstead Garden Suburb councillor Frank Davis, one of the eruv's most outspoken critics, in appealing for differences to be set aside.

Spokesman Edward Black said: "We appreciate the idea gave rise to anxiety among some.

"The Secretary of State and inspector considered all the relevant issues and concerns in reaching their decision.

"We therefore trust all parties will put their differences behind them and move forward in an atmosphere of mutual respect."

It will be some time, possibly months, before the poles and wire go up, marking out the area in which strict Jewish sabbath laws will be relaxed.

The chairman of Barnet's town planning committee, Jack Cohen, accepted that there would still be some resentment.

"It is not going to be easy but I hope people will accept they had a fair hearing and this decision is the right one," he said.

Garden Suburb resident Alan Jacobs, an eruv opponent, acknowledged it would prove difficult to dispute the inspector's verdict.

"He's torpedoed things by deciding on planning grounds: Now we have to broaden the debate — though I'm not sure how," he said.

News extra

Attack charge

A BUILDER from Edgware is among five people accused of attacking a man outside a Paddington nightclub.

Eugene O'Neill, 36, of Harcourt Avenue, appeared with four others at Marylebone Magistrates Court on Friday.

All five are charged with causing violent disorder in Queensway, West London, in the early hours of August 20.

O'Neill is charged with maliciously wounding Garth Stainforth with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm, while another man, Robert Burns, 31, is charged with assaulting Mr Stainforth, causing him actual bodily harm.

The five were bailed unconditionally until October 7 to seek legal advice.

COUPLE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMEBACK



Half-century: Robert and Iris Ramsay at their golden wedding anniversary celebrations

picture by: DANIEL MARTIN

A RETIRED Stanmore postman and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary after their children organised a dinner at the Hendon Hall Hotel.

Robert and Iris Ramsay, who lived in Edgware until their retirement in 1976, met at the end of the war when Robert was stationed on army search-light duty in Wembley. But living with Robert's parents proved too cramped so they moved to Wenlock Road in 1948, where they remained for the next three decades.

Their son, George Ramsay, of Stoneyfields Lane, who is a church warden at John Keble Church, said: "Although they now live in Norfolk, we decided to hold a special meal with all their old friends and neighbours in Hendon because this is where they spent their working lives and where my sister and I grew up."

Robert worked the borough's streets as a postman at the Stanmore office after leaving the army, while Iris was a secretary at National Cash Register on the North Circular Road, before Brent Cross Shopping Centre was built around it.

George added that growing up in the area must have left an impression on him and his sister, Denise Piddington, since they both still live a mile apart. George runs his own cafe, George's Kitchen, on Deans Lane, while Denise is a teacher at Edgware School.

The Shoetree

Continental shoes for children

Kickers, Converse, Superfit, Buckle My Shoe, Salamander

The finest quality shoes, handpicked for your children's feet

New in - Mickey Mouse Padders for babies

1384 High Rd, Whetstone
081 446 8539

FOR THE BEST FUN ON 4 LEGS GO HORSE RIDING THIS AUTUMN AND WINTER, MIDWEEK AND WEEKENDS AT:



BARNET RIDING CENTRE
HOMESTEAD FARM
106 GALLEY LANE
BARNET, HERTS
EN5 4RA

All levels of rider, young and old are welcome.

For bookings, information and details of our special Gift Token Vouchers, useable in full or part payment for rides or lessons.

PHONE
081 449 3531