

11/11/96

Minor revisions in boundary could re-open debate

New fight for eruv plan

BY RUTH ROTHENBERG

Opponents of the North-West London eruv are preparing a last-ditch campaign aimed at halting the project.

Barnet council is to rule on a revised planning application from the United Synagogue eruv committee in the next few weeks. Minor revisions were made necessary by road and building work in the area.

Some of the original positions designated for the poles of the eruv — a notional boundary of thin-nylon line permitting observant Jews to carry some objects or push

prams on the Sabbath — had to be shifted.

Supporters of the eruv plan to circulate leaflets to synagogues next week urging congregants to write to their local councillors "explaining how the eruv will help members of the Jewish community to observe Shabbat without inconveniencing others," a spokesman said this week.

According to the leaflet, many of the councillors who will consider the revised application "are newly elected, with no knowledge of the depth of support behind the application."

The original application was made in 1992 and was approved on appeal in 1994.

Among prominent local opponents of the eruv are Lords Howie and McGregor, who live in Hampstead Garden Suburb, which would be included within the eruv.

Lord Howie said this week he was considering a protest to the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, or tabling a motion in the House of Lords, with the support of his fellow peer.

Lord McGregor, a former chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, resigned

as chair of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust in 1992, when a trust meeting ended in uproar over the eruv.

Lord Howie said he would wait for the council to take its decision before making the next move. If the application is approved, objectors could challenge only on grounds of impropriety.

Eruv committee spokesman, Edward Black, said: "We are confident the application to the public works committee and the development and protection committee will be dealt with on its merits and will be successful."

Chief is to speak at Board memorial for Rabbi Gryn

JEWISH CHRONICLE REPORTER

An annual memorial lecture to commemorate Rabbi Hugo Gryn is to be organised under the auspices of the Board of Deputies.

A Board source said that Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks had been invited to speak at the inaugural commemoration, to be held in February or March next year.

The initiative is understood to have the support of Rabbi Gryn's widow, Jackie, who, in a letter in this week's JC, urged the communal "tolerance, harmony and celebra-

tion of differences" which her husband would have wished.

News of next year's commemoration follows controversy over the absence of United Synagogue representatives at Rabbi Gryn's funeral in August. The idea for a Board-led meeting was suggested in the JC by former US vice-president Leslie Wagner, now vice-chancellor of Leeds Metropolitan University.

A memorial service for Rabbi Gryn will be held next month at West London Synagogue, where he was the senior minister for many years.

New JIA man in football injury scare

Jonathan Kestenbaum, the former head of the Chief Rabbi's office who has moved into the chief executive's post at the JIA, was recuperating in hospital this week after a serious footballing injury.

The Maccabi league star — who has been selected for the 24-man British squad training for next year's Maccabiah

Soviet Holocaust papers given to US

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
Moscow

Documents detailing Nazi atrocities on Soviet soil after 1941 were this week handed over to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington following an agreement between the museum and the Russian security services.

The documents, which also include material on trials of German Nazis and Soviet collaborators from 1946 to 1949, could help historians get a clearer idea of how many Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Vladimir Naumov, a top Russian archivist, said the documents showed that the

Saint Al's super strike

