

103

Brian & Fella Berenblut
16 Shirehall Gardens
Hendon
London NW4 2QS
☎ 081 202 023
Fax: 081 203 9643

9 October 1992

Fax: 010 972 2 617 213

Dear David

A גמור טורב to you and your family.

As dates have changed since we last spoke I thought it would be sensible to write to you to let you know how we felt we should act; given the new time scale. It's up to you to decide if we should proceed as outlined below - we await your signal.

I suppose in essence we have decided, in any case, to place our actions on hold because there is a real danger of duplication of effort which could easily bugger up the works. I hope to meet with Syma, Edward and Anthony during חול המועד so a return note from you in time for that would be appreciated.

Thus all actions indicated below are *potential actions* - nothing has, as yet, been done. (Poetic licence: there are a few obvious exception, eg the letter writing campaign.)

Geoffrey Greenhouse

I spoke to him. He seems out of touch with the local party and fairly disinterested; at least as far as personal effort is concerned. Edward spoke to him separately and apparently it was agreed that Geoffrey's mother will chat-up the local Tory Ladies (the councillor's wives).

Anthony Finn

Very keen to help and offered to come to my meeting with Syma - so more about him later. Except perhaps I think he may be more useful than might have thought. He offered insight into the councillors (small) minds and is prepared to spend the time.

MEETING NOTES: Syma, Anthony & Brian 5 October

Short discussion on David Schreiber's *how to approach councillors* before the Planning Meeting (cf Meeting at Laurence's house 3 October).

1. Three main headings
 - visual impact
 - loss of amenity
 - cost/benefit between loss of amenity (small) and benefit to a particular group (large)

VISUAL IMPACT

Focus the mind of the councillor on planning issues of the 'development'.

A trivial matter of 42 recycled telegraph poles (8" diameter; 21 feet height). Point out that 40,000 larger poles are now in place.

1200 feet wire monofilament wire are required. 5 million feet, of larger diameter wire are in place now within the same boundary.

All structures comply with requirements of Barnet.

LOSS OF AMENITY

Should be negligible (cf comments above).

COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

There is a precedent case - the Woodlands has an Eruv. However remember that any application dealt with on its own merit.

10,000 practising Jews in the area - a significant minority of the population.

2. Emotive Elements

Simple line on political party aspect - apolitical.

No religious mumbo jumbo, do not talk about the Eruv in Biblical terms. Sabbath modern as well as ancient idea; a special day. Adherents to the faith need to carry in public domain which, for this purpose needs to be delineated. This is not sinister.

eg we can eat meat; but it must be kosher
similarly we can carry in a 'notional area' like a postal district - just another 'benign' zone. Nothing happens when we move from NW4 to NW11 etc.

Divisiveness - why do Jews object; we can see that very few do. The Eruv is to be sanctioned by the US ie the establishment, the one organization representing most Jews in the country. 80% of Jews affiliated to Synagogues are affiliated to the US and recognize the Chief Rabbi and the Bes Din.

Eruv facility useful to 10,000; some to a great extent (cf Jewish Care letter). Consider the sick, elderly, young mothers. However a small minority of lapsed Jews feel embarrassed by practice of orthodox Jews, we are sensitive to their feelings. The Reform Movement has expressed support (cf letter from Rabbi Bayfield).

Right wing of Orthodoxy hold more stringent rules and may not use the Eruv. However it does not impose on them or threaten them.

There is no cost to the Burroughs or its rate payers.

If other questions are asked to which the answer is not known; we will find out.

3. Ask for the order

Directly ask if the councillor will vote with. We need to know where we stand.

4. The Lobbyists

Should be:
in the area
committed
man/woman team

. Note that a councillor cannot say not refuse to meet someone in his ward.

5. The Meeting

No confrontation - if danger lurks it is better to back off.

We are not making any personal political statements - keep off politics.

Date of Planning Meeting

As this has been put off until December it is unwise to lobby now. It would only provoke the counter lobby. Also this extension has given us the opportunity to devise an alternative lobby strategy.

Nature of Lobbying

At the meeting at Laurence's house on 3 October it was suggested that man/woman teams be appointed to approach each councillor - the pair being selected from the councillor's ward. As things have evolved now, this approach is questioned; at least in part. Anthony thinks it crucial to have excellent pairs of lobbyists; even if they live outside the ward. He justifies using 'outsiders' because this is a Barnet issue - not just a local ward issue. Obviously the best option is excellent lobbyists from within the ward - but finding them is clearly going to be a hard task.

We have analyzed the position of each councillor. The current situation is as follows.

1. Syma to contact Dayan Ehrentreau to ask Ellis Hillman to gain a view of the Labour position. Hillman may be able to help with internal lobbying within his own camp. (Subsequently Edward Black has said that this is unnecessary - as this contact has already been made (through DS?). We await the information it has produced.)
2. Edward Black has supplied us with kits. A further kit to be given to Finn for his 'quiet' campaigning councillor to councillor. (Newspaper cuttings and various background material culled from DS file.)
3. Long discussion on the 'Women and Disabled' demonstration. Thought that it could backfire - perhaps even anger. Further market research required.
4. Brian is to ask Perrin what each of the planning meetings is for. Anthony Finn stressed that it is usual for the meeting to follow the chairman when he advises against an issue; ie the chairman's negative lead is usually followed but his positive recommendations are often challenged. Therefore it is crucial to get the chairman of each meeting on our side. Thus we must locate the local officers and determine their views. Brian to consult with Laurence on this point. (Again it might be that Edward has this covered - no action until path is cleared.)
5. See Frank Davis in box below - understand from Edward that DS has covered this. How many other points are we duplicating?
6. Analysis of ward boundaries shows that there are many more jews in West Hendon than first realized. The ward encompasses the Shirehall estate.
7. Letter writing to Agnes Slocombe and Edward Bunn is being arranged.
8. Letter writing to the papers is being pushed to counter the balance of letters against in the local press. (Bernstein at Monday shiur, Silberg from the pulpit etc.)

Anita Cambell (L)	Hillman to be contacted by Finn (see 1)
Don Goodman (C)	David Schreiber (Finn is friendly)
Alan Turner (L)	see 1
Jack Cohen (LD)	Finn can sound out if necessary; known to be OK
David William (L)	see 1
Jim Anani (C)	Syma to call Colin Schindler
Rudolf Vis (L)	-ve; Mathew Kalman but not now? covered by DS?
Julian Czarny (C)	OK Finn will speak to him
Eva Greenspan (C)	OK Finn will speak to her
John Tiplady (C)	Against - to be avoided at all cost
Frank Davis (C)	close to Rabbi E Jackson - Syma to arrange
Melvin Cohen (C)	'friend' of Finn - no problem
Gillian Bull (C)	unknown quantity - Finn to sound out
Sheila Scott (C)	fed up with Jewish issues
Edward Bunn (C)	Finn distrusts - will use Marshall via DS
Jane Ellison (C)	Finn to find out from Czarny
Mary Phillips (C)	Finn thinks against - will consult Eva
Victor Lyon (C)	Finn does not know - will find out
Agnes Slocombe (C)	Finn says 'good person' Brian & Fella's ward
Stan Cross (L)	see 1

As you can see, David, preparatory work is under way for lobbying in November. Please advise your views.

Could you please pass on the draft of Bernstein award piece to Ruth for further comment. I have now checked all the data presented. (Ruth was right about the start of the shiur!)

שבת שלום וחג שמח

Best wishes

Brian