

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV COMMITTEE
9 West Heath Road
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18 November 1992

NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 1992

Present:

David Schreiber	(Chairman)
Lawrence Begner	
Edward Black	
Joe Bloomberg	(Tel: 081 346 5738)
Michael Goldblatt	(Tel: 081 202 8418)
Brian Berenblut	(Note)

This note records the main conclusions from the various discussion points.

1. All information required by us in preparation for the Planning Meeting (now scheduled for end of January 1993) must be compiled by the end of November.
2. The new 'call for comments' dates are from the beginning of December till the beginning of January.
3. The latest estimate puts the 'new pole' count at 79.
4. Three petitions against the Eruv have been received by the council.

All petitions, with more than the threshold number of 6 valid signatories, must be announced at the council meetings.

Joe together with Syma to coordinate 'street' and 'estate' petitions.

5. Frank Davies (not unexpectedly) is blowing off steam - not worth going into detail as his actions till now have been counter productive.
6. DS has had useful discussions with Shimon Cohen. David reported that as a seasoned lobbyist Shimon had the following comments to make to the Eruv Committee.
 - a) Avoid aggressive overtones when dealing with a 'compassionate' issue.
 - b) Avoid the purely religious arguments. Nobody understands them and it frightens the Jews.
 - c) At the moment nobody knows what we are talking about - a public relations failure at present!

7. The best received idea of the meeting was the proposal to hold coffee evenings for each of the 'reasonable' councillors on the Planning Committee.

The idea evolved as the evening progressed. Finally the consensus was to hold the meetings at the home of a prestigious name, for example Lord Jacobovits. One (or more) councillor(s) would be invited to meet local residents (plus DS and LB in local costume).

8. DS described the Broadsheet which is to be compiled. Its main objectives are to inform (and counter opposition arguments) and to put people at ease with the Eruv idea. A threat to no one.

Broadsheet will contain information on environmental aspects (dangers, means of construction, materials of construction etc); the ghetto fear; the Eruv explained; endorsements and interviews from outside.

There was some discussion on the merit of obtaining endorsement from local non-Jewish businesses and personalities. Outcome of this not decided. If goes ahead DS target of 100 'adverts' to cover production costs. DS had prepared an 'Advertorial' application form.

Judy Goodstein will interview various user group: mother with young children; an elderly person; Jewish Care.

Many other elements to be include eg experience in the USA; why never before in UK; letter from GB to the LA community.

Broadsheet must be ready by Christmas. Precise date of release be a logistical decision to be made at a later date.

9. DS has had discussions with Paul Francis a senior journalist on the Hendon & Finchley Times. This paper is neutral to positive on the Eruv issue. Possible that we may give them a scoop on the Broadsheet (in exchange for detailed coverage or physical inclusion of the Broadsheet in the paper).

9. Date of Next Meeting, Wednesday 25 November, 8pm chez Schreiber.
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