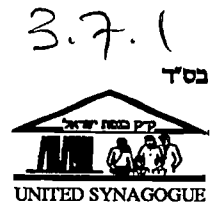


**THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE
ERUV COMMITTEE**

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Distribution

30th November 1992

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Information Update

Barnet have now set the date for the Town Planning & Research Committee to consider the Eruv application on **Wednesday, January 20th**. The delay has been technical in nature and is a result of a number of reasonable changes that the officers have proposed. These have now been agreed and the detailed scheme, as ammended, is complete. As a result of the cooperation between Barnet officers and Alan Perrin, the scheme will go forward with their recommendation and this has a significant positive bearing on the outcome of the vote.

You will have read about opposition from the City of London Corporation. This is somewhat academic as we do not require their support. We are, however, still waiting for the Department of Transport to respond on a number of points that relate, primarily, to the North Circular Road.

There has been a sustained campaign against the Eruv centred on two Suburb conservative councillors, Roy Shutz (the Council leader) and Frank Davis. They joined with Lord McGregor, the former Chairman of the Suburb Trust, in attempting to have the application 'called in' by the Secretary of State. This and other moves, within the council, have been successfully resisted and their opposition is somewhat discredited but not to be ignored! Undoubtedly we made some wrong moves in handling this aspect of the campaign and with a hostile General Manager/Editor at the Ham&High we walked into some bad publicity. This seems to have blown over as our policy has been to keep a very tight rein on our exposure to the press.

Other opposition has been from a number of individuals, mainly Jewish, who have sent in letters and a petition to Barnet - but not in large numbers.

As we stand today, we have solid support from Mr. Don Goodman, the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, and a number of other Tory councillors. We do not have a clear reading on the intention of the Labour councillors and there are still a number of undecided members. In short the outcome is anything but clear and we therefore have to work up to the post to gain the support of a majority of the 20 committee members.

Plan of Campaign

We have decided to focus our efforts and limited resources in the following directions.

1 Petition

Our last Write-In campaign was very successful - our thanks to all who put in the effort! The council reported 130 letters against and 453 for.

In the run-up to the planning meeting, we will concentrate on getting signatures for a petition. Every petition of over 6 valid signatures has to be reported to the councillors and so we will build a **petition campaign** on a pyramid basis - i.e. spreading out the number of people involved in collecting signatures and petitions in order to maximise the count. We need a strong four figure total! I will be meeting with representatives of the communities to agree the detailed handling of this campaign.

Our belief is that the petition and the publicity surrounding it will bring positive pressure on councillors and persuade any left in doubt that there is a widespread and significant demand for the Eruv.

2 Lobbying

We will continue to meet individually with Councillors and seek their support. In some cases, coffee evenings are being organised to bring together the local councillor with concerned local residents.

3 Publicity

We cannot ignore the media as councillors are very much influenced by what they read and what they know their voters are reading. We will use the Hendon & Finchley Times in the run-up to the meeting, to communicate our message and put across a positive human interest story. We have received a lot of support and helpful material from the USA.

4 Next Meeting

I know I'm not very good at making sure everyone is informed and involved and have tended to work in an adhoc working group style. Sorry - no offence to anybody!

Anyone who can attend is welcome to join us at 6pm next Sunday 6th December at 61, Brampton Grove Hendon.

The aim will be to review and coordinate our activities leading up to the committee meeting.

RSVP If you can attend, please call Valerie on 071-433 3434

בברכת כל טוב

David Silveider