

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE ERUV COMMITTEE



FAX MESSAGE	
TO	Laurence Begner
FROM	David Schreiber copy: Edward Black, Graham Morris
SUBJECT	Preparation for Public Works Meeting on 5th October 1993
DATE	23rd September 1993

I have been giving a lot of thought to the meeting on the 5th and had an extensive discussion with Julian Czarny on the telephone last night. There is very intensive lobbying going on by Frank Davies and Alan Williams and I think it is essential that even if we accept in advance that we will not win the vote at Public Works that at least we put up a reasonable showing and have some eloquent speeches in our favour, all with a view to the Inquiry. Julian and I identified the best prospects as being Melvyn Cohen, Ellis Hillman and Jane Ellison. This would give us a cross party and multi-ethnic voice. I can do some work for this on Sunday but, as you know, I am going to Israel on Monday and will be away over that period. I am due back on the 10th. I am happy to make calls or send faxes from Israel if it will help lend weight but I think the main thing is to prepare a brief for these councillors as to the key points in our favour and discuss with them the division of labour, to make sure that these points are put across.

I am sure you can add to the list but let us include the following:-

1. To build on Don Goodman's initial response before external pressure was exerted that this application is in every respect *less* than the first - less intrusive visually and simply fewer poles in the sensitive meadowland area of Wildwood Road.
2. A slightly more complicated argument but one that should be put on record is that if this application is refused by Public Works, and in the event that we achieve planning on appeal for the first application, we will be entitled (obviously subject to Department of Transport) to go ahead and construct the Eruv. If we do so, and if Barnet do not approve the second application, they, the

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Committee Laurence Begner, Brian Berenblut, Edward Black, Joe Bloomberg, David Cohen, Daniel Drukarz, Alfie Frei, Jeremy Hershkom, Michael Goldblatt, David Marriott, Graham S Morris, Mark Moss, Michael Posen, David Schreiber, Syma Weinberg

Rabbinic Panel Rabbi Isaac Bernstein (Finchley), Dayan Ivan Binstock (Golders Green), Rabbi Edward Jackson (Hampstead Garden Suburb), Rabbi Alan Kimche (Ner Yisrael), Rabbi Sidney Silberg (Hendon)

Supervisory Authority Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks, Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu, Head of the London Beth Din

United Synagogue Liaison Elkan Levy (Honorary Officer)

Technical Officer Alan Perrin B.Sc.

Council, will be seen to be forcing us to construct an environmentally less desirable scheme.

3. We do believe categorically that application B is better for the conservation area in particular and, because of the very thin wire to be used, for the Eruv area in general. It would therefore be absurd if the Council were seen to have forced us into the less desirable outcome.

4. Our basic stance must be to the members and within the Council that the application has been modified in response to the serious planning considerations and reservations that were expressed in the planning meeting last February and which resulted in its rejection. Several councillors at that time specifically referred to Wildwood Road and made it clear that were it not for the treatment of Wildwood Road, they would have no reservation in supporting the Eruv. We are therefore demonstrating in very practical terms our willingness to listen and to be responsive and sensitive to these issues.

Laurence, I think we cannot take anything at all for granted. I believe you should write out these points in brief form and add any others and please do sit down with these councillors and talk through the strategy for that meeting.

5. Eva Greenspan has offered to appear as a non-committee councillor. In view of past experience, via Julian Czarny I have thanked her profusely and said that it appears that we do better relying on members to make our case and it is weakened by having outside support. She has also made a strong pitch to appear at the Inquiry, and perhaps there would be some benefit, but I have told her very clearly that it would be up to John Steel to decide who will be witnesses. She made the point that the pre-Inquiry meeting on Tuesday will be reviewing timetables, etc. and it makes me think that we are a long way from having determined who our witnesses are to be. I do not know whether this needs to be considered prior to the meeting on Tuesday. If it is, we need rather urgently to consult with Fibbens Fox. Please may I leave this to you and Graham Morris?

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a small dot.

David