

Regeneration and Planning Development Management  
London Borough of Camden  
Town Hall  
Judd Street  
London WC1H 8ND

24 July 2014

Dear Sirs

Planning Application Reference 2014/2464/P

Similarly to my neighbour Stella Styllis, I object to the erection of the poles to form an Eruv in the Camden Borough for the following reasons:

1. **The poles will clutter the already cluttered** conservation area and in some cases cause obstructions.
2. **Erections on public land should be resisted unless reasons for them are very well founded (factually and legally).** I believe the application is likely to be disproportionate to needs and that legal arguments put forward may not stand.  
The proposed Eruv is extremely wide. It seems unreasonable for it to come this far, to cover South Hampstead and extend as far as Finchley Road? Brondesbury Synagogue is a long way away and there are other synagogues in and closer to our area. How many worshippers in the South Hampstead area (or Camden area) will benefit from the Eruv? (I understand that Eruvs are not supported by all Jewish people in any case, not even by all Orthodox Jews.)
3. **The application should succeed only if all the boroughs (three or four) in which the area of the proposed Eruv falls approve it at the same time.** If one borough rejects the application, then the basis of the application fails in all boroughs (because the Eruv will not be enclosed and will fail to achieve its purpose).  
Presumably, the Eruv may similarly fail if one set of poles in one borough is not approved.
4. **Worryingly, the area will be labelled as connected to one religion (or, more accurately, for some people of one religion.)** The case of an Eruv is unusual. It is not one of a place of worship, but of a conceptual and, to an extent, physical enclosure of a large area.

Please note, my comments are *not* based on religious discrimination, quite the opposite. I just want continuation of the wonderful tolerant and secular nature of the Camden Borough, in particular that of South and West Hampstead where I have lived for 28 years. All religious followers and those with no religion happily co-exist here, with no bias against or for one religion. And the area is not designated for one religion. Unfortunately, the nature of an Eruv causes this designation. (I do not suggest that the applicants will be intolerant of other religions.)

While I sympathise with those Orthodox Jews who wish to move more freely on Friday and Saturday, I object to the application both for planning reasons and for wider community reasons.

Yours faithfully



Helen Weavers