

Parnjit Singh

From: Adam Greenhalgh
Sent: 21 October 2021 17:37
To: Planning Planning
Subject: FW: 2021/3105/P - Application of Highgate and Muswell Hill Eruv Committee

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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The majority of Council staff are continuing to work at home through remote, secure access to our systems. Where possible please communicate with us by telephone or email.

From: Jonah Cowen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 21 October 2021 14:08
To: Adam Greenhalgh <Adam.Greenhalgh@camden.gov.uk>
Subject: 2021/3105/P - Application of Highgate and Muswell Hill Eruv Committee

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Greenhalgh,

I am writing to you to show my strongly felt support for the planning application of the Highgate and Muswell Hill Eruv Committee.

An Eruv is a structure constructed in a town or city to allow Orthodox Jews, such as myself, to carry within the area encompassed by it on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturdays).

The beauty of an Eruv, as I'm sure will be apparent from the planning application, is that it involves an extremely small amount of physical infrastructure, while having a substantial positive impact on the lives of those who live inside it, particularly the more vulnerable residents.

Jewish law prohibits carrying objects and riding vehicles on the sabbath, unless it is done inside an enclosed space. Eruv is a way to enclose a space by taking an area that is already mostly surrounded by a combination of walls, fences etc. and completing the enclosure by adding a small number of poles with wires mounted on top of them. It has a minimal impact on the environment and neighbourhood and barely any visual impact - it is designed to be virtually invisible.

However, the benefits of the Eruv are substantial:

- **Wheelchair users:** It will allow religious observant wheelchair users of all ages to leave their homes on Saturdays, which will vastly improve their quality of life and enable them to attend social, education and religious events.
- **Parents of young children:** It will help parents with young children who wish to both leave the house at the same time. With an Eruv, parents who keep the Sabbath can take their children out in a pram, thus affording them much greater mobility and freedom.
- **Hospital visits:** The Eruv will enable greater access on Saturdays for Sabbath observant visitors to visit hospitals and care homes, e.g. the Whittington and the Royal Free, so that they can bring kosher food and other supplies as well as being able to bring young children in prams.
- **Medical necessities etc.:** The Eruv will afford greater mobility on Saturdays to people with specific medical needs, who will be able to carry around emergency medical and sanitary items
- **Success of other Eruvs:** Many other areas of the country particularly in parts of North and North West London, have established Eruvs, which have successfully enabled greater participation by families and those with Access needs in communal, social and religious activities. Furthermore, there are a number of Eruvs near or adjacent to the proposed project (in Barnet, Camden etc.) and so the project will bring Highgate and Muswell Hill in line with the area.

In sum, the Eruv will bring substantial improvements to the lives of many observant Jews in Camden and their ability to participate in communal life, especially young families and those with access needs. At the same time, it will have a negligible impact on all other residents, since it involves a minimal number of structures which are designed to be as invisible as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this message.

Kind regards,
Jonah Cowen