



**Subject:** Highgate and Muswell Hill Eruv Committee 2021/3105/P



Hi,

I am contacting you to let you know some of the reasons I strongly support the plans to construct an Eruv in the Highgate and Muswell Hill area.

As I am sure you are aware, observant orthodox Jews are prohibited from 'carrying' (which includes carrying as the word is commonly understood, but includes activities such as ushing a byggy/wheelchair etc...) outside of an Eruv. There are functioning Eruv's in many areas of London, but unfortunately, the lack of an Eruv in the area in which I live has made social and religious life incredibly difficult for me over the past few years, specifically since I have had children. In the years before my children were able to reliably walk to synagogue and back, I was unable to attend community events on the sabbath, such as dinners, prayer services etc... As a result, for a number of years I was left feeling quite isolated on the sabbath, the day where our community comes together in a number of ways. The lack of an Eruv in our area also meant that religious/orthodox friends with young children were unable to come to visit us during the sabbath, as they would not have been able to push a buggy beyond the boundary that is the eruv that covers Finchley central/hampsted garden suburb. As you might imagine, this was a challenging time for me, and the lack of Eruv led my husband and I to consider moving out of East Finchley.

As our relatives grow older, the difficulties and challenges we face as a result of living in an area without an Eruv are different, but equally limiting. On the sabbath we are prohibited from driving, when it is hot this means that my elderly relatives are unable to walk to visit our home/our synagogue as something as simple as accessing water and medicine becomes something that needs to be carefully planned around/for (sometimes it can't be). The presence of an eruv makes using aides such as a walking stick, or a wheelchair, possible. Without it, many individuals are faced with the choice between engaging in communal life, or breaking the laws/rules that give meaning to our community.

As I see it, the plans are relatively unobtrusive, and should have little impact on the majority of people, who are unlikely to be affected by the erection of the poles etc.. required, but will have a HUGE impact on the lives of individuals for whom the presence of an eruv enables a host of activities that are otherwise deemed forbidden.

I hope you give some consideration to the weight of impact the approval/rejection of plans to enable an Eruv will make to those supporting/objecting to the current proposals.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion.

Kind regards,  
Hela

