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ERUV UPDATE

Over the last few months, the Eruv Committee has been working intensively and are now pleased to be able to report some significant progress in resolving a complex series of issues associated with the planning and licensing process. We are now delighted to update you on the project as we prepare to embark upon the final phase.

HISTORY TO DATE

In July 2007, we obtained planning permission for the Eruv from Hertsmere Borough Council. The next step was to obtain a licence from Hertfordshire County Council. (This differs from the structure in Greater London where it is the same council that grants both planning permission and issues the licence.)

COMPLICATIONS

This complex statutory process has taken considerable time because a number of pole sites needed to be relocated in order to comply with the County Council's Health and Safety regulations and related matters. Each one of these changes has required approval from the London Beth Din as our halachic authority – a process that has now been completed. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Dayanim and staff of the London Beth Din, together with Rabbi Jeremy Conway and his team at the United Synagogue for the huge amount of time and effort that they have dedicated to helping us since the inception of the project, and particularly during this latest phase.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Following halachic approval for the revised plans a final approval is now pending from the Planning Department at the Borough Council and Highways Department at the County Council. We expect that these approvals will be granted in a straightforward and speedy manner. We have already shortlisted and selected a contractor to supply and construct the Eruv and briefed them on the plans. We are in a position to place the order as soon as these final approvals are granted.

FUNDING

Fundraising has also been progressing well; a great example of this was the recent 'Puzzle Evening' which raised over £1600 for the Eruv. Again we are thankful to the fund raising committee from both the US and Federation Shuls who organised this event for us. We are now within £10,000 of our target to fund construction and year one maintenance. We would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the United Synagogue and Federation of Synagogues Head Offices' whom have both made financial contributions to the project.

However, we do need to ensure that the Eruv is well funded on an ongoing basis. As such, we are asking as many people as possible to sign-up to regular standing orders to help cover the ongoing costs of the Eruv. Donors giving in excess of £75 per year will be entitled to a free weekly text message or email giving notification of the status of the Eruv. Donations over £150 per year will entitle the subscriber to sponsor the Eruv for one Shabbat to mark a special occasion such as a simcha or yahrzeit. As a registered charity we are able to benefit from the Gift Aid component of any donation.

We have attached a copy of our fundraising leaflet and encourage you to sign up now to make a regular contribution to ensure the success of a new and important part of our local Jewish infrastructure. We will update you again over the summer and as soon as the final approvals have been given and the order has been placed with the contractor.

Ebor Eruv Charitable Trust, a company limited by Guarantee, Registered in England No. 5869108
Registered Charity No. 1115425
Bank Details: Barclays Bank Plc, 7th Floor, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1D 1EA

Trustees:
Mr R I Kafton (Chairman)
Mr M Landau (Vice Chairman)
Mr D Freedman
Mr N S Arnold
Mr D Grose

"Bringing Elstree & Borehamwood together"

"The eruv will radically transform the lives of the local community, by enhancing their Oneg Shabbat (enjoyment of Shabbat). The ability to carry items in the streets and for young couples to be able to push their buggies and socialise in each other's homes, will be a breath of fresh air. I strongly encourage the entire community to help fund this truly worthwhile project."

Rabbi Raphy Garson.
Ohr Yisrael Synagogue, Borehamwood

"I am delighted that the Eruv project will soon become a reality. It will transform Jewish life in Elstree and Borehamwood.

Eruvim are fast becoming the hallmark of thriving mainstream orthodox communities. I urge members of our community to support the appeal for funds so that we can have this great piece of infrastructure in place that will develop and enhance our community."

Rabbi Naftali Brawer.
Borehamwood and Elstree United Synagogue

Further information

www.eboreruv.org

or see the websites for our local shuls.

www.borehamwoodshul.org and
www.ohr-yisrael.org.uk

To contact the Eruv Committee,
please e-mail: info@eboreruv.org



Introducing the

ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD

eruv

connecting the community

help us take our first steps

What is an Eruv?

An eruv is a neighbourhood boundary which allows all Jews to enjoy Shabbat to the full.

Shabbat is a day set aside by Jewish law from the working week. It is a day to spend time with family and friends and to focus on spiritual pursuits, such as going to Synagogue.

On Shabbat, carrying and pushing wheelchairs, prams and buggies from one's home to the street is not permitted. An eruv re-defines a neighbourhood as a single entity in which these restrictions do not apply.

What will it mean for Elstree and Borehamwood?

Currently, families with young children are house-bound every Shabbat. Many with children too young to walk to Synagogue stay at home, unable to attend children services, kiddushim, simchas or to visit friends for a meal. The eruv will allow these families to leave the house and take part in communal activities.

The eruv will also be especially helpful for people who use wheelchairs or have poor mobility. Others will find it useful to be able to carry toddler accessories, food and drink, house keys, reading glasses or books to a synagogue or others' homes.

The eruv will make Shabbat events, both religious and social, available to everyone.

What's going on?

The eruv route has been approved by the United Synagogue and is jointly endorsed by the London Beth Din and Federation of Synagogues. Planning permission has been attained, and details are being finalised with the local authorities.

The Ebor Eruv Trust have set a target of going live with the eruv within two years of achieving planning permission. However, if fundraising targets are met, we are confident that the eruv could be constructed much sooner than this.

Where do I come in?

Funds are required for construction and ongoing maintenance. There is a donation form opposite allowing you to be part of the 'build'. All contributions count towards making this exciting initiative happen.

There is also a standing order form intended to cover ongoing maintenance costs. We are looking for families to pledge just £1.50 per week to meet the costs of upkeep, far less than the cost of a single takeaway coffee. Those wishing to donate at least £150 per annum will be able to sponsor the eruv for a specific week (e.g to mark a Simcha, Yahrzeit or other occasion).

All those contributing £1.50 or more per week will receive a weekly advisory text or email showing the eruv status.

Only with your support will we succeed.

Help us take our first steps.

Help us connect our community.



I wish to become an Elstree & Borehamwood Eruv Partner and help to construct and maintain our Eruv.

Please choose your payment method and then complete the details below:

CONSTRUCTION: I would like to help build the eruv by,

One Off Donation £.....
Cheques / charity vouchers addressable to:
The Ebor Eruv Charitable Trust
40 Manchester Street, London W1U 7LL

MAINTENANCE: I would like to contribute to the ongoing Maintenance of the eruv by,

Standing Order £.....

Standing Order details

To.....Bank Branch.....

Sort CodeAccount Number.....

Account Name

Please debit my account with £ each week/month/quarter/year

Commencing now /

from.....until end date.....or until further notice

and make the payments referred to above to: Barclays Bank Plc, Regent Street Branch
Sort Code: 20-71-64 Account Number: 03884619 Beneficiary: Ebor Eruv Charitable Trust

The Ebor Eruv Charitable Trust, 40 Manchester Street, London W1U 7LL

Signature.....Date.....

Gift Aid

If you are paying by cheque or standing order and are a UK tax payer, please sign the following Gift Aid Declaration: All donations I make to the Elstree & Borehamwood Eruv Trust from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise are to be treated as Gift Aid donations.

Signature.....Date.....

In all cases please complete the details below:

How do you want to be notified each Friday of the status of the Eruv?

By e-mail By text message

Name.....

Address.....

PostcodeEmail

Home Phone Number Mobile No.....