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16 June 2010 Eruv Progress Update

Further to our May update, we can now confirm that 77 of the 79 poles have been installed and the majority of the remedial fence work has been completed.

Through the installation process, it became necessary to vary some of the final pole positions from the original planning consent primarily to accommodate obstacles such as underground utilities, trees, roots and wire clearances which could not have been anticipated in advance.

It had been anticipated that the process for approving the revised pole locations would be a relatively smooth process by which the Planning Department would use their delegated authority granted to them by the Planning Committee to approve the revised locations without the need for the Committee to be re-consulted. A similar approach was taken when the NW London Eruv was constructed.

Unfortunately, the Planning Department have indicated that they are unwilling to use the delegated authority in the current instance due to possible legal concerns and instead require us to submit a formal retrospective planning application for the unavoidable pole movements. This is regrettable as there are no planning issues nor are any residents impacted by any of these changes.

As it stands we have little choice and are now preparing the submission. If members of the community are concerned about this specific development we suggest that they address them directly to Hertsmeire Borough Council as the focus of our time and charitable resources must now be on delivering the Eruv within the new parameters set out by the Council

Evidently, this will impact our completion timeline. We are working as quickly as possible to prepare the submission and anticipate this being completed within the next two weeks. We will update the community when this has been submitted. Our understanding is that the Planning Department are required to complete the planning review process within an 8 week period from the date of submission. The application would then be considered at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Our informal discussions to date with the Planning Department have elicited a positive response as regards the revised locations but the retrospective planning permission is still required. Assuming permission is granted, we will then look to complete the eruv in as short a timeframe as possible.

We appreciate that for many, the delay will cause frustration; an emotion that is equally if not more so felt by the trustees, Eruv committee and London Beth Din, all of whom have spent significant time and effort in getting to this stage.

Please continue to support us as we work towards the completion of this most important communal initiative.

The Trustees

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