

Hills Gazette

 **Community**

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Council gets a serve

THE Shire of Mundaring has developed a "them and us" communication mentality towards the community, say some ratepayers.

Stoneville, Parkerville and Sawyers Valley ratepayers packed the public gallery at a committee meeting last week to hear debate on council communications with the public.

Stoneville Residents and Ratepayers Association president Mike Davis said the council was inclined to push through development proposals without

proper consultation. He cited the council's perceived lack of communication about proposed subdivisions at Stoneville and Parkerville and an approval for a bottle shop in Stoneville.

Mr Davis said his organisation had been unable to read the town planner's report and recommendations on proposed subdivisions.

Only six residents had been approached for an opinion about the bottle shop when there were more than 600 living in a 1km radius of the proposed site.

He called on the council to communicate better with signage, advertising in local newspapers, at ratepayer meetings and on the internet.

Cr Colin James said there were 13 ratepayer organisations in the shire and most times nobody responded to notices the council sent to them.

Shire President John Beaton said there was an incorrect perception in the community that councillors lived outside the district and were development-driven.