

Residential development near Stoneville under scrutiny from council

Plans for residential development near Parker-ville and Stoneville came under heavy scrutiny from Mundaring Council last Tuesday night.

Councillor Jim Zaknich had strong concerns about the proposed development on Cameron and Roland Roads.

"I'm not against the development, I just want a guarantee that it will happen," he said.

"My concern is there will be 100 to 300 homes at the site with inadequate infrastructure such as sewerage and fresh water.

"A development of this

magnitude needs much much more deliberation.

"If someone could pull out a magic wand and say in five years' time 'there will be a townsite' - then yes.

"But it must be achievable and socially acceptable.

"If only 100 or 200 blocks are sold we'll have an isolated community in the middle of nowhere.

"Is it going to be financially viable?"

Cr Terry Geraghty said Cr Zaknich was talking fear, and council was obstructing the development.

"Obstacles aren't professional of council," he said.

"It's almost like taking the bat and ball and going home, or throwing a googly.

"Putting a caveat on the guidance plan is not warranted."

Mundaring Shire Chief Executive Officer, Mr Max Williams, said a lot of time and planning had gone into the proposal.

"This is not a development that has come out

of the woodwork," he said.

"It's been the culmination of 12 years' planning, six years for council, with at least another five to validate concerns such as roads, environment and drainage."

He said proposals for a new high school near the site could be jeopardised if council refused the development.

"If council refuses this I will wonder if it has an understanding of long term planning processes," he said.

Mr Williams said fears about no development taking place at the site were wrong.

"People don't sit on vacant lots in the hills," he said.

Several shire associations, and numerous residents were concerned about many aspects of the development.

Issues of concern included the number and size of residential blocks, how much bushland would be conserved, infrastructure and public transport service.

Residents claimed the site would create anti-social behaviour, because of a lack of facilities for youth in the area. The Residents Association Against Planning Developmental Destruction, claimed the development would be under flight paths, and said Airservices Australia was amazed that it was even being considered.

The association also objected to subdivision block sizes in the development, and said minimum sizes should be 2000 square metres east of the escarpment.

Council intends to address drainage and water supply issues in the guidance plan.

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