

Documentary stirs debate

CAMPAIGNERS against proposed housing estates at Stoneville and Parkerville have planned a special screening of a documentary that debates the merits of close, urbanised housing.

The activists also want new WA Government laws to protect the Darling Range against urbanisation from Muchea to Serpentine.

Stoneville Progress Association chairman Mike Davies said the screening of the documentary *The End of Suburbia* would be held at the association's meeting in the fire school hall, Norris Park in Bentley Street on Monday night.

The association has also invited senior executives of the Midland Redevelopment Authority to address members.

The documentary caused a stir when the City of Swan in conjunction with the Midland Redevelopment Authority sponsored a screening at the Midland Town Hall on June 20.

Swan Mayor Charlie Gregorini said the screening was a way of prompting community involvement and debate on the future of urban planning, particularly in the context of rising oil prices and rapid urban growth.

"The film broadly discusses some possible implications of rising fuel prices on city planning processes, traditional suburban development and the need for more sustainable development," Cr Gregorini said.

"The purpose of the film was to promote debate on the issue, rather than advocate



Judi Moylan

any particular style of development.

"The screening was well attended by interested residents and a panel of practitioners involved in metropolitan planning were invited to discuss issues with the audience.

"The panel was made up of Midland Redevelopment Authority chairman Dr Fred Affleck, Somerville Ecovillage project manager Paul Antonelli and Sustainable Transport Coalition's Dr David Worth," Cr Gregorini said.

Discussion focused on the merits or otherwise of high-density development, village living, Subi-centro style developments, and a range of other community-based initiatives.

Stoneville activists are hoping to have Dr Affleck attend their screening of the documentary and to address members on the merits of the urbanisation in the Hills.

Executive director of Applied Ethics and Philosophy at Curtin University Dr Stephan Millett has accepted an invitation to join the discussion panel.

Others invited include Swan MLA Jaye Radisich, East Metropolitan MLC Donna Faragher, and Pearce MHR Judi Moylan.

A second East Metropolitan MLC Helen Morton has apologised because she will be interstate and unable to attend.