

Alarm over village

HILLS residents fear that a proposed new village near Parkerville in Mundaring Shire will not be compatible with the environment or lifestyle of the area.

The planned village, bounded by Roland Road, Cameron Road and Stoneville Road, will have about 1700 rural landscape, residential and retirement lots for an estimated population of 4625.

The shire received nearly 50 submissions when a local subdivision and infrastructure plan — a “concept plan” — for the development was advertised.

Most of the submis-

‘Incompatible’ with Hills lifestyle

sions expressed concern about the planned development, including comments such as “the shire must be crazy to allow this to go ahead” and “(this is) development at all costs”.

The shire’s planning committee has recommended that the plan be deferred for three months for further investigation of various issues.

These include a “water audit”, an investigation of the

technical details of a 10 hectare lake designed to hold recycled water, discussions with the Environmental Protection Authority and negotiations for a reticulated water supply and for a more graduated buffer around the edge of the development.

The development is surrounded by rural and rural residential properties, but it is planned to separate the new residential areas from these with public open space and larger sized lots.

Councillors wanted a more gradual decrease in the size of blocks from the edge of the proposed village to its centre to provide a larger buffer.

Deputy Shire President Jim Zaknich said the development went from rural landscape living lots straight into residential lots.

“To increase the size of the lots after rural landscape living will enhance the development and make it into a proper buffer,” he said.

Representatives from the Parkerville

Ratepayers and Residents Association questioned whether the proposed village was in keeping with the shire’s vision in its strategic plan.

“Not one residents’ group in the East or Central Ward have said this is the sort of lifestyle they want,” PRRA president Kenn Kelson said.

Jon Kaub from the PRRA said the development was “totally alien” to the Hills.

“This is a festering sore we can’t allow to go ahead,” he said.

“This doesn’t conform with the status quo of what we perceive as the semi-rural lifestyle of the Central and East Wards.”

Cr Terry Geraghty said the council’s vision was for a diversity of lifestyles, but at the moment there were no small blocks or places for people to retire to.

“This is entirely with our vision, and will protect the other villages by preventing them from being burdened by growth,” he said.

Shire President John Ellery believed aspects of the plan — including the amount of public open space — would preserve the Hills lifestyle.