



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITORIAL NOTE: As promised in our last issue please find here the letters we received in response to Mr Beaton's letter published in the November 2005 issue.

In order to indicate the size of the response and the depth of feeling on this vexed issue I have endeavoured to include all letters received, excepting those either scurrilous or anonymous (often both). I have attempted to retain the diversity of opinion and for the sake of space I have chosen to omit duplication of thought.

All mention of Mr Beaton's concealing the fact that he is currently Shire President have been omitted, as previously mentioned he wrote as a private person and it would have been quite wrong of him to use his position.

I apologise in advance if you think your letter has been too severely truncated but this task has not been an easy one and some decisions have been arbitrary. For the Shire's official view may I request you ring and ask for copies of the two information sheets prepared for the public. They are too long for inclusion here, even severely shortened. - DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND-BRUCE

Dear Sir,

Seems that Swan City paid for the lion's share of infrastructure when Ellenbrook was built in the hope of increased rates revenue - sound familiar? They expected by now to have \$16.8 millions in the kitty - in fact they're down \$4.14 millions. - \$21 millions out! Not surprisingly rates in the City have gone up. It would have been cheaper to knock back the development. It seems they relied heavily on the developer's original sales projections but they've only sold approximately half of the projected lots. What started as "Heaven on a stick" in a bush setting is now a suburban nightmare. I've always doubted the commercial appeal of suburbia in the Hills, it's the antithesis of what people like about the place.

Given the Ellenbrook experience the Council will be taking a big punt if it hopes for "Jam tomorrow" in order to fund this.

MIKE DAVIES

Dear Editor,

Let's do a little simple math and add 1709

(houses proposed for Stoneville) to 908 (houses proposed for Parkerville) which equals 2617 houses. If each house has just two residents, that means that at least an extra 5,234 people will be living in the shire.

If these proposals are to go ahead it means a lot of money will be made by a few groups. Let's agree that there are 1709 homesites proposed, of which:

1219 were approximately 800m<sup>2</sup> or less

171 were approximately 1000m<sup>2</sup>

265 were approximately 2000m<sup>2</sup> and

55 were approximately 5 acres

(Figures from a Shire of Mundaring Town Planner's Report)

If we were to err on the conservative side and say that:

1219 (800m<sup>2</sup> or less) blocks sold for \$120 000 each this equals \$146 Million

171 (1000m<sup>2</sup>) blocks sold for \$135 000 each this equals \$23 Million

265 (2000m<sup>2</sup>) blocks sold for \$170 000 each this equals \$45 Million

55 (5 acre) blocks sold for \$250 000 each this equals \$14 Million

Which totals up equals \$228 Million...

Interesting isn't it?

KRISTI TURNER

Dear Editor:

My husband and I are really opposed to this development at all costs attitude. Where do our rights as residents in the hills areas end and other people's rights take precedence?

STUART & AMANDA PAYNE  
WA CONSERVATION OF RAPTORS  
BRIGADOON

Dear Editor

Please, Mr Beaton, don't trivialise our very real concerns with high density living by accusing us of 'snobbery'. We are not 'snobs' just ordinary people on 2.5 acres trying to bring our children up with community values.

CAROLINE WHITELOCK

Dear Sir

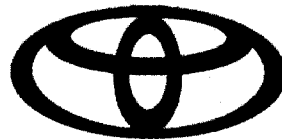
I fail to see how the Shire can, at this stage, propose this type of close development when there is no infrastructure there to support it. There would be no public transport, we already have a shortage of doctors and the current road systems would not be able to handle the increased volume of traffic.

Surely the whole reason behind establishing smaller blocks for older people is that the main support services are already in place. I know a number of older residents who moved out of the hills area and down to the city as there was better access to public transport, doctors and hospitals. Until these services are in place for current hills' residents doesn't it seem somewhat farcical to bring yet more people in to further strain over-taxed resources.

FIONA BUSH  
PARKERVILLE

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