

# Preservers of Hills get a hearing

ACTIVISTS fighting to preserve the character of Perth's Hills districts were buoyed this week by a sympathetic hearing from a Mundaring Council committee.

They were also cheered by support from Midland Redevelopment Authority chairman Dr Fred Affleck and by a conciliatory approach from a developer whose project they have opposed.

Mundaring's Development and Services Committee voted 7-3 on Tuesday against a resolution activist body the Stoneville Progress Association had proposed.

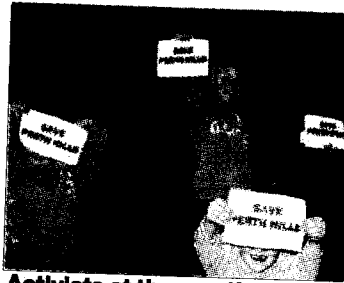
But association supporters at the meeting were encouraged when even councillors opposing the resolution agreed some form of protection from development was needed.

The activists want laws for the Hills like those prohibiting development in hills areas near Adelaide, restricting subdivision in the Swan Valley and preserving bushland in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.

They are also pressing for the overturning or modification of a 10-year-old conditional approval for two housing estates.

The estates would boost the populations of Parkerville and Stoneville by 7500 people - or about 200 per cent.

Midland Redevelopment Authority chief Dr Affleck ad-



Activists at the meeting this week came in all sizes.

ressed a meeting of the association in Stoneville on Monday night.

Dr Affleck also heads a State Government advisory committee on urban development and public transport and oversees a combined university study of those matters.

He told the meeting that housing estates such as those proposed for Parkerville and Stoneville should be confined to the coastal plain, which had a plentiful supply of land.

The developer of the proposed housing estate at Parkerville recently offered to present its ideas to the association and sought an opportunity to address residents' concerns.

A representative said the company was prepared to talk one-to-one with the activists.

Protest groups led by the association have pressed Planning Minister Alannah MacTiernan to overturn the development approvals.

Neil Smith