
Letters to the Editor

Preserve the Hills

THE current West Ward elections show just how undemocratic our local government system is.

As ratepayers, we are completely oblivious to the machinations of those in power who carefully select "their candidate" who will be compliant.

They are with a block of "non-aligned" councillors who are hell-bent on development at all costs.

These councillors totally reject the wishes of their constituents to preserve the Green lifestyle of the hills, and despite overwhelming petitions, there is little point in standing for local government.

Why was it that the only candidate to declare her candidacy weeks before the closing date suddenly found herself faced with a last minute opponent. Sure it's legal to wait until the last minute, but hardly transparent. What are the fiefs of Mundaring trying to hide?

We desperately need an open and transparent system of ratepayer-controlled strategic planning meetings for the Hills.

Councils should do the bidding of their ratepayers, not the reverse. Make sure your vote counts and ring your councillors to let them know your wishes.

Demand open public meetings and the right to have petitions in Local Government offices like local libraries.

People power does work. Look at the way we saved Bilgoman Pool from being privatised.

Get active and help preserve the Hills.

**Dr Colin Hughes,
Glen Forrest.**