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Estate size debate

By ANDREA DOWNEY

Quattro community residents association member Chris Gray was calling on the State Government to reconsider its plans to build 86 multi-storey units in the Queens Park estate saying it was not in the best interest of the community.

"The original intention was 39 units and we are going from that to 86 multi-storey," he said.

"At the time of purchase everybody was told it was going to be grouped housing for over 55s so we have been misled.

"It is significant for the people that are directly alongside this development to be told the game has been changed without disclosure.

"We do not oppose development, it is not about opposing affordable or grouped housing.

"The issue is about inappropriate development in the area."

Mr Gray said last year residents tabled a petition and a detailed submission of residents concerns in parliament and received written confirmation that all the issues would be addressed but so far they had not.

Member for Cannington Bill Johnston said returning the plans to 39 grouped houses would reflect the values of the Quattro area.

"It is unacceptable that the Barnett Government did not include local residents in the decision making process to increase the density of these blocks," he said.

"Eighty-six units on these sites are too many, they will potentially disrupt Quattro residents with traffic problems, waste disposal issues and impacts on the local amenity, particularly when residents were sold their blocks without knowing this would happen.

"It is contrary to the Department of Planning's draft planning policy for housing under the airport flight path, the units are too far from the Queens Park train station to be walkable and they will add to traffic problems in Queens Park."



Quattro community residents association member Chris Gray at the site where 86 multi-storey units were earmarked to be built. Photograph — Matt Devlin.

Department of Housing general manager commercial and business operations Paul Whyte said the site has been owned by the Department of Housing and earmarked for many years for group housing, which was public knowledge, the department has not advocated or planned 39 units for the site.

"Developments undertaken by the department are appropriate and in keeping with the look and feel of the local community,"

he said. "The Whitlock Road project is a quality, contemporary development that will enhance the amenity of the suburb.

"The low-density, two-storey development has been designed to present as contemporary group housing and will offer 86 predominantly one and two-bedroom units for sale as part of the department's program to deliver affordable housing to the market.

"Development applications have followed the appropriate administrative procedures, the project has been designed to comply with the Quattro design guidelines, the city's residential development policy and the R-codes.

"This project will provide an opportunity for Western Australians including the next generation of young professionals to enter the property market."

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