

## **Press release – 25 Apr 2007**

### **SOS Swanbourne and local residents praise Nedlands Council for revoking motion**

At its 24 Apr meeting, the Nedlands Council voted to revoke its 13 March motion to level the sand dunes at Swanbourne Beach for three volleyball courts. The vote was warmly applauded by the crowd packing the Council Chambers, who rejoiced shaking hands and exchanging triumphant smiles.

Prior to the vote, several Swanbourne residents addressed the council. During question time, the administration was asked about the real costs of the proposal, then four community members addressed the council to sum up the reasons why this project should not be allowed to go ahead.

They explained why the proposal was clearly environmentally unacceptable, showed a grave lack of council accountability as it had originally passed it without a proper business plan and analysis. They described how the project was opposed by the great majority of beach users canvassed over the last three week-ends, as shown by the 280 people-strong petition opposing the proposal tabled at the council meeting, that included 103 Nedlands residents.

This ill-fated proposal was going to cost the council \$35,000 plus unspecified ongoing maintenance costs, neither of which had been budgeted for.

Unfortunately, four councillors still refused to see the light, voting against the rescission motion or abstaining: they were Cr Bell, who initially moved the original motion with its ambiguous (some would say misleading) wording, and Crs James and van Straalen.

SOS Swanbourne was not particularly surprised that Cr Bell voted against the rescission, as he made every effort to avoid meeting with the Swanbourne residents to hear their views (see letter by L. Shaw in the Post of 14 April). It should be noted that Crs Bell and van Straalen have said they will stand for reelection in October this year.

For updates on this issue and others, please go to the SOS Swanbourne blog: <http://sos-swanbourne.typepad.com/>. The website aims to keep the community informed on issues that affect local residents and is a forum for all to express their views.

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