

Public in the swim

Consultation plan aired

By DI THOMAS

A NEW process to engage Wodonga residents on the future of the city's aquatic centre project would provide five or six opportunities for public comment, council chief executive Peter Marshall said yesterday.

He said the process could take more than six months but may provide a model the city could use in future to gauge public opinion on major projects.

He said the wider community would be involved through means such as a letterbox drop, newsletter or survey.

However, opponents of Willow Park's use for the facility, remain concerned at Monday's council decision not to rescind the motion from its August meeting.

Instead the council voted "not to act on its previous decision to construct this facility at Willow Park, at this time", as well as adopt the terms of reference for further consultation.

Members of the Save Willow Park group met last night to determine their response.

Alison Mitchell said residents appreciated support for the rescission motion by councillors Anna Speedie, Jenny Hanuska and Rodney Wangman, however they did not understand the "arrogance" of the remaining four council members.

"It is a silly, uncalculated risk putting the chance for State Government funding ahead of the community's trust," Dr Mitchell said.

"How can people trust the council if Willow Park is still on the agenda?"

Only Cr Hanuska voted against the joint motion to not act on the Willow Park decision and the new consultation process.

She encouraged the community to respond to the council's request for information as early as possible.

Cr Wangman said adding summary details of past council and consultant reports to past plans of alternative locations would provide for sufficient detail to be made available to individuals and interest groups.

© 2007 The Border Morning Mail Pty Ltd. All rights reserved.