



MEDIA STATEMENT

RITA SAFFIOTI MLA
MEMBER FOR WEST SWAN



Friday 16 September 2011

RESIDENTS PETITION FOR LANEWAY CLOSURE

Following the crime spree on the July 16 weekend in Ballajura, a petition requesting the closure of a Ballajura laneway has been presented to the City of Swan after local residents decided they were fed up with a laneway that has become a hotspot for criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

Victim of crime and local resident Sue Diener raised the matter with local MLA Rita Saffioti, who assisted Mrs Diener in forming the petition that requests the closure of the public access way between Macaw Gardens and Flamingo Trail.

Ms Saffioti said it was important that a majority of the local residents who are directly impacted by the laneway support the proposed closure.

“The City of Swan needs to know that the majority of residents support a closure before making a decision,” she said.

“Mrs Diener and other residents did a great job with the petition and it is now over to the City of Swan to determine the best way forward.”

“Unfortunately these laneways, especially at night, can attract the type of behaviour Ballajura doesn’t need,” Ms Saffioti said.

“The overwhelming support on the petition clearly indicates the local residents no longer require this laneway and would prefer for it to be closed off to prevent anti-social activity from occurring in their streets.

“Enhancing community safety must be the priority in this instance.”

The petition, containing 39 signatures, was presented to Council last week by Cr Maria Haynes.

Council resolved to have the matter referred to the Chief Executive Officer for a report to be presented to a future Council meeting.

Ms Saffioti said it was time a viable solution to problematic laneways in Ballajura be put forward by the Council.

“The City of Swan must address these issues and make sure community safety is a priority in their decision making,” she said.

Contact: Rita Saffioti 9248 3822