

Council issues ultimatum

PETER ROLFE

LEGAL action and an allegation of a secret State Government financial arrangement over the sale of Kew Residential Services threaten to stall the troubled \$400 million project.

In a final bid to influence the shape of the development, Boroondara Council has issued the government with a list of demands it wants met.

And the council has warned it is ready to take its two-year stoush with the government back to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal if its concerns go unanswered.

At a fiery meeting last week Bellevue Ward councillor Luke Tobin accused the government of having a conflict of interest as owner and planning authority for the site.

"It's bad enough that Dracula is already in the blood bank - we shouldn't let him rob it as well," Cr Tobin said.

He accused the government of striking a secret "financial arrangement" with developer Walker Corporation and urged the council to plough ahead with legal proceedings.

Department of Sustainability and Environment spokesman Rob Fischer denied a deal existed.

He said commercial negotiations were yet to be finalised and the finer points were "not yet known".

The council has vowed to resume its

Boroondara's council's wish list for Kew

The State Government to purchase land adjoining Kew Primary School to accommodate an influx of students to the area expected when KRS is redeveloped.

Transport Minister Peter Batchelor to review and reduce traffic levels at Princess St and improve road safety in the area.

Contributions to Kew childcare, kindergarten and primary schools by the government and Walker Corporation.

Public transport upgrades.

A commitment from the government about measures to reduce noise from the Eastern Freeway in the vicinity of KRS.

quest for a VCAT injunction against the development plan unless the government addresses its suggested improvements.

These include protection of significant trees and materials to be used in construction of homes on the site.

Mr Fischer said the government

“It’s bad enough that Dracula is already in the blood bank – we shouldn’t let him rob it as well

— Cr Luke Tobin

would honour its commitment to pour all proceeds of the land sale back into disability services.

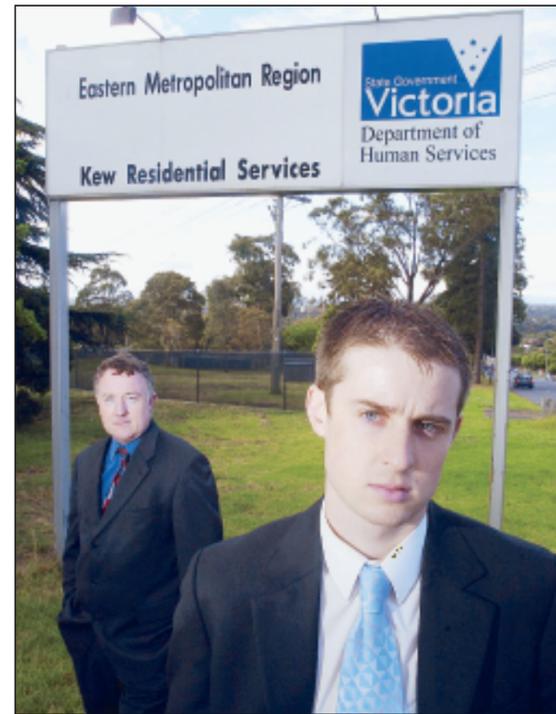
Department of Human Services eastern metropolitan regional director John Leatherland was quizzed by Cr Tobin about the deal.

Mr Leatherland said he was unaware how much money his department would be allocated from the sale.

"It's not an issue of the government making a profit out of this development," Mr Leatherland said.

The council wants its concerns to be added to the revised Walker Corporation development plan, submitted in October, before it is considered by Planning Minister Rob Hulls.

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Councillors Philip Healey, left, and Luke Tobin at the historic Kew site. Picture: TOM CAMPBELL. N24PP311

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Whether it's for shopping, social, religious or recreational pursuits, B-Link, a low cost Sunday community bus service sponsored by Foundation Boroondara, allows Boroondara residents to more freely access local amenities.
Ph: 9538 6660 for further information or go to the Foundation Boroondara web site for a timetable and route map
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