

Main street plans on the table again

A LAST minute community meeting has been called to discuss elements of the Airlie main street upgrade once again.

The meeting will focus on the proposed change to the road which is planned to curve as part of the central park concept and no longer run straight through the centre of town.

Council said the reasons behind this change was to protect the town from flood waters, as it would work as a barrier, and to allow for more green parkland.

Council mayor Mike Bruner said the meeting had been called to give the community a final say after some ratepayers were not happy with the current plans.

"We need to explain to them what is going to happen," he said.

"We need the support of

the likes of the Save Our Foreshore group and the Ratepayers Association.

"The curve in the road is crucial."

There are also plans to change the structure of the Airlie Supermarket complex near the central lagoon car park.

Land owner Des Davey said council had approached him to change the shape of his block to allow the main street beautification plans to take place.

Mr Davey said although the direction of the building would change, the size of the block would remain the same.

If it goes ahead the current building will be demolished and there are plans for a multi-storey building to be constructed in its place, complete with cafes, restaurants and alfresco dining," he said.

"We are trying to design a building that will be people friendly.

"We [the town] are in deep strife if the town doesn't get this face lift."

Cr Bruner said there was no need to fear any sort of development like the FKP development which residents feared would impose on the town in 2007.

Groups like Save Our Foreshore lobbied for three-and-a-half years to prevent the development from taking place where thousands of people were involved.

Save Our Foreshore president Suzette Pelt said they were interested in the new development for the sake of public land.

"We are watching this very carefully," she said.

The public meeting will be at the PCYC in Jubilee Pocket at 6pm next Wednesday, August 31.