

Harbourview

Harbourview land development essential – expert

Urban design specialist Dushko Bogunovich says commercial development at the southern end of the Harbourview land is essential.

Mr Bogunovich, an architect and town planner who is associate professor in urban design at UNITEC, drives past the land daily.

“I would always say it would not be a bad idea on a site like that to develop the land at the southern edge, by the motorway,” he says.

The area is ripe for development because it would provide a barrier to protect the open space from motorway noise and pollution, and it has good accessibility.

But he warns the success of the development depends on how well it is designed.

“Good design will enhance both the recreational and aesthetic value of the land.”

He says good-looking buildings will also help silence critics of the development.

Those critics, such as the president of the Te Atatu Residents and Ratepayers’ Association, Elizabeth Grimmer, say there should be no development on the land. She says the Auckland Regional Council should buy the land and turn it into a regional park.

The Waitakere City Council would make money from the rates the ARC would have to pay on the park.

But ARC parks and recreation committee chairman Bill Burrill says his council won’t say or do anything about the land until Waitakere has com-



Anne Grace, left, and Elizabeth Grimmer say Waitakere City’s heritage, the Harbourview land behind them, is being thrown away for the sake of commercial development.

pleted its study.

“They are the owners of the land. We won’t hijack their land – we’re not in a position to do that.”

He admits the door to ARC involve-

ment in the project is still open, if the Waitakere City Council wants it.

The Millennium Gardens proposal is due to be heard by the Waitakere City Council in about nine months.

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