

People who've had a gutful

SOUTH Sydney mayor Vic Smith is facing a revolt from among the ratepayers of Rushcutters Bay, Kings Cross, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay.

They have formed an organisation called 2011 Residents' Association Incorporated (the name is based on their postcode) to fight over-development, traffic congestion and pollution of their neighbourhoods.

At the inaugural meeting on May 6, company director Richard Bennett was elected president, business executive Tom Lanny vice president, public servant Gaynor Morgan secretary and company executive David Harris treasurer.

On a visit last week I found the natives restless over the council's proposal to demolish the amenities building on Macleay Street, near El Alamein Fountain. It houses the much-cherished Florence Bartley Library, a tourist information office, a

baby health centre and public toilets.

Once cleansed of civic amenities, the site will be amalgamated with the old Rex Hotel property next door, where Asian developers intend building a tall block of luxury apartments.

As a result, members of 2011 are considering options to end the intolerable influence of Labor-controlled South Sydney Council:

- Stand candidates in September's council elections and support community independents in other areas;

- Declare independence, set up their own community council, withhold rates and place them in a trust fund;

- Quit South Sydney Council and seek reintegration with Sydney City Council.

The residents' revolt is a sign of the times. As the police royal commission demonstrates, the Cross is a hotbed of corruption, prostitution, drugs and violence.

Can our Olympic officials be satisfied that this is a suitable showcase for our magnificent city?

"People who've had a gutful", SMH, 28.5.95, p. 21



Clipped By:

TheResearcher
Sun, Oct 3, 2021