



Canterbury Councillor Linda Eisler with members of the Nicholas Avenue Action Group outside the heritage dwelling which the council has approved for demolition. Photo by RADIM CECHVALA.

Plea ignored

Heritage dwelling faces chop

By KIRSTY JAGGER

PLANS to demolish a brick dwelling believed to be of heritage significance have been approved by Canterbury Council despite opposition by hundreds of residents.

The brick dwelling at 16 Nicholas Avenue in Campsie, soon to be flattened and replaced with townhouses and parking, is one of four on the street designed by Varney Parkes - son of the Father of Federation, Sir Henry Parkes.

Nicholas Avenue Action Group petitioned against the development application that was approved on June 9, despite having been twice rejected by the Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel.

Action group advocate Tracy Andrade said the 200 signatures were

“not even mentioned” during the meeting.

National Trust of Australia NSW advocacy manager Graham Quint had also written to general manager Jim Montague, highlighting the council’s poor heritage protection performance.

Of seven adjoining councils, Mr Quint said Canterbury had the lowest number of heritage listed items.

“Of the 140 listed heritage items on the Canterbury Local Environmental Plans, 86 items are non-residential, with only 54 items relating to housing in Canterbury Local Government Area (LGA) despite the fact that Canterbury has more historic inter-war period housing than any other LGA in Australia,” Mr Quint wrote.

Canterbury councillors Linda Eisler and Ken Nam moved for the matter

to be deferred to allow an independent assessor to investigate the dwelling’s heritage value or refer the matter back to the assessment panel for further deliberation.

Both amendments were lost.

“I live in a Parkes designed property too and one of them going is like losing a family member,” Ms Andrade said.

“We can never replace that home once it is gone.”

The council was advised by its solicitors, if seeking to refuse the application on a heritage basis, an alternative heritage expert should be retained to prepare a report on the matter. Instead the council chose to rely on the report put together by their in-house heritage advisor, which ruled there were insufficient heritage reasons to refuse the application.