

Walford heritage stoush

PLANNING |
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HYDE Park residents have sent a clear message to Walford School not to bulldoze three historic villas within its grounds.

With the help of Unley MP **David Pisoni**, heritage group Friends of the City of Unley Society (FOCUS) has issued a survey across the suburb about the fate of the century-old houses, which face Fashoda St.

So far 56 responses have been received to the letterbox drop, with all except one calling on Walford to back down. Since the school received council approval for demolition in July, it has refused to reveal what it will build on the site.

The survey responses show residents worry about the loss of the villas and the potential for Walford to build a modern



DETERMINED: Cr Lachlan Elyne (left), Val Nairn and Unley MP David Pisoni in front of one of the historic houses.

replacement out of character with the area. "Walford School has already significantly destroyed the integrity of our beautiful Hyde Park with its blue and yellow 'plastic' buildings in Commercial Rd," wrote one respondent.

FOCUS president **Ros Islip** said in bulldozing about a dozen old homes over the past 20 years, Walford had shown it had no respect for the area's heritage. Mr Pisoni said Walford needed to learn to

communicate more openly with residents.

In an email, Walford principal **Helen Trebilcock** said plans were being finalised by an architect "to ensure they are sympathetic to the area" and would be lodged with Unley Council in the new year.

"We have instigated a regular communication system with our neighbours and have received positive feedback from Unley Council regarding this," she said.