



## Residents call for security patrols

BY KATE MURPHY

After overwhelming resident support, Member for Swan Steve Irons has called for security patrols within the Town of Victoria Park.

Mr Irons sent out a survey to residents in East Victoria Park on September 27 and as of Monday had received 537 responses, with 492 in support of the security patrols, 37 against and eight undecided.

Mr Irons said a security patrol in the City of Belmont proved to be successful and believed it could have the same impact in the Town of Victoria Park.

“At the moment the crime rate is increasing so you have to look at every option that is available and try to find one for that particular area, patrols are worth having a shot, there’s no reason why they shouldn’t give it a try,” he said.

“I realise there is some cost to it and whether the ratepayers are going to want

to pay for it is another thing.”

Mr Irons met with Town of Victoria Park mayor Trevor Vaughan and chief executive Arthur Kyron last Friday to discuss the survey results and the possibility of the patrol.

Mr Kyron said the town was aware of the issues of crime and antisocial behaviour and said it worked closely with police and residents to manage trouble spots.

“Anecdotal evidence from metropolitan local governments suggests that security patrols have an impact on some antisocial behaviour such as loitering and street drinking but not on crime,” he said.

“Local government-run security patrols have no powers to arrest or detain, they act as a deterrent and report antisocial behaviour to police.

“The community safety and crime prevention committee meeting has requested Mr Irons attend the next meeting to talk about the matter.”