

DON'T TURN OUR TINY BEACHSIDE TOWN INTO A GLITZY GLENELG

WORK is set to begin on a \$12m redevelopment of Normanville's foreshore, but some residents are still fighting the project they say will turn the town into a "glitzy Glenelg".

Yankalilla Council this week voted to enter a contract with Yarrawonga Manufactured Housing to buy 20 new cabins for the Jetty Caravan at Normanville.

It's part of a wider plan to attract more people to the popular seaside holiday spot.

A new surf lifesaving club and kiosk, a larger lawn, a nature playground and a plaza are also earmarked.

The council originally planned to install 23 new cabins but revised it down based on an Australia-wide increase in building costs.

Councillors asked for more consultation with the kiosk's future leaseholder about designs for a new surf lifesaving club and kiosk before signing off on the plan.

The new cabins have been a bone of contention for Ruth Trigg, Pam Kirsten and Karen Gibbs, who are worried the buildings will change the area's character and not turn enough profit to justify their cost. "We don't believe we should be going into the amount of debt they're going into," Ms Kirsten said.

"There's only 5600 ratepayers here and our rates are extremely high.

"The reason people come here to live, to visit, is because of what it is.

"It's natural and unspoilt, a lovely character-filled town, and we don't want that commercialised into a tourist hub where you can't get a carpark anymore.

"A Glenelg, glitzy type of thing doesn't need to happen – it's not characteristic of this rural area."

Ms Kirsten said locals would continue to hold protests. Ms Trigg said the council had "imposed" the plan on the community.

"We're very unhappy with what we feel is the lack of listening to us," she said.

Yankalilla chief executive Nigel Morris said ground work was about to start at the caravan park and the cabins would be installed in May.

That was also when the Normanville Surf Lifesaving Club would be demolished to make way for the rebuild.

“We understand it’s not to everyone’s liking but it’s the best compromise we could come up with based on all the feedback,” he said.

Normanville Surf Lifesaving Club president Dave Jensen said the upgrade would “spice up the foreshore”.